THE TIMES

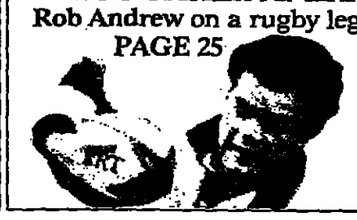
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TODAY 10P



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TODAY 10P

Challengers emerge as Major tries to silence talk of a landslide defeat

Portillo and Heseltine would fight for crown

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL HESELTINE and Michael Portillo emerged yesterday at the head of an eight-man field that will run for the Tory leadership if John Major goes down to heavy defeat on Thursday.

The Deputy Prime Minister's supporters say privately that he still has the energy and ambition to challenge for the ultimate office. They believe that his strong performance in the campaign, including an apparent shift towards the Eurosceptics, will have helped his chances.

Senior party figures believe that in any run-off with a right-wing candidate Mr Heseltine would get the backing of Mr Major and *Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.*

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has long been considered a leading contender of the Right and will throw his hat into the ring. His supporters are making discreet efforts to broaden his base within the parliamentary party, and *The Times* has learnt that some leading figures on the centre-left have been approached to join his campaign when it rolls.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, John Redwood, the former Welsh secretary, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, Mr Clarke, William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, are all believed to be ready to go for the leadership. Norman Lamont could be a ninth, running on a ticket to withdraw from the European Union.

Although Mr Major is refusing to contemplate anything other than victory on Thursday, close supporters say that he will be urged to make it plain immediately, if he loses, that he will stand down — but only after an interval sufficient to allow an orderly transition.

Mr Redwood, who had already challenged Mr Major once and who is unencumbered by recent Cabinet office, is certain to be the first out of the starting-blocks. A Redwood supporter is expected to be the first to call for a contest if the Tories lose the election. Mr Howard is seen as a heavyweight candidate for the Right and would be able to count on the backing of several influential ministers, who believe that he has been underused during the campaign.

Senior ministers who will play a pivotal role in any leadership election say that Mr Heseltine is one of the few Cabinet ministers whose claims have strengthened as a result of the campaign. His readiness to admit that he had sketched the advert showing a tiny Tony Blair sitting on the knee of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was seen as a none-too-subtle nod towards the Eurosceptics that he has got the message.

Ministers expect Mr Clarke to run and to win the votes in the first ballot of the pro-European minority, whose members are delighted that he has refused to compromise one iota during the campaign, allowing his distaste for elements of it to become apparent.

But because of his fierce pro-European line Mr Clarke may be unable to secure sufficient support to carry him through to a second ballot. All the indications are that at that stage he would throw his backing behind Mr Heseltine. He has told friends that he still thinks Mr Heseltine is a pro-European at heart.

Mr Major, too, could be expected to come out for Mr Heseltine. The two men are closer than they have ever been; and the Prime Minister is known to believe that since he offered Mr Heseltine the deputy prime ministership in 1995 — before the leadership election of that year — he has had total loyalty from him.

Mr Hague has made massive strides in recent months and is almost certain to test the water in the first ballot, even though many Conservatives see him as the next leader but one. Mr Dorrell has been prominent during the campaign and has taken an increasingly Eurosceptic stance in recent months. Mr Rifkind, who has also tilted towards Euroscepticism and allowed his private opposition to the single currency to become known, will almost certainly be in the field, although he has first to hold his seat in Edinburgh, Pentlands.

The causes of Mr Rifkind, Mr Dorrell and Mr Hague would be helped by a longer campaign that would enable them to underline their credentials with the new intake of Tories, which will be large even if there is a heavy defeat.



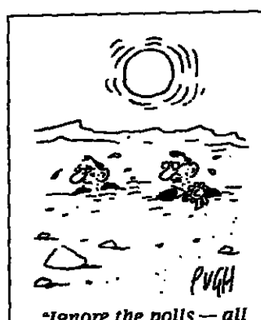


CHRIS HARRIS/DOUG MARKE

Sunday styles: Cherie Blair campaigning in Derby yesterday, and Edwina Currie returning home from shopping in Findern

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UK loses out 48



"Ignore the polls — all the other signs are very positive"

Major and Blair go all out for victory

By Philip Webster

JOHN MAJOR tried to lift Tory gloom and Tony Blair warned his party against complacency as the prospect of a Labour landslide appeared to harden yesterday with only four days to polling.

The Prime Minister will today launch a desperate rearguard attempt to stay on in office with a whistlestop tour to all parts of Britain warning voters to "wake up" to the dangers of a change of government.

At the same time Mr Blair will mount his final push for power by again raising the spectre of a Conservative victory to encourage all Labour supporters and waverers to come out and vote for him. "I take nothing for granted in this election," he said yesterday as Labour's lead increased by two points, according to the latest opinion poll.

Gallup's rolling survey for today's *Daily Telegraph* showed Labour on 49 per cent, up one on the *Sunday Telegraph* figure. The Tories are at 30 per cent, down one, with the Liberal Democrats at 14 per cent, up one. But the weekend polls pointing to a landslide — which politicians in both parties still regard as unlikely — have caused problems in the Tory camp and some misgivings in Labour's.

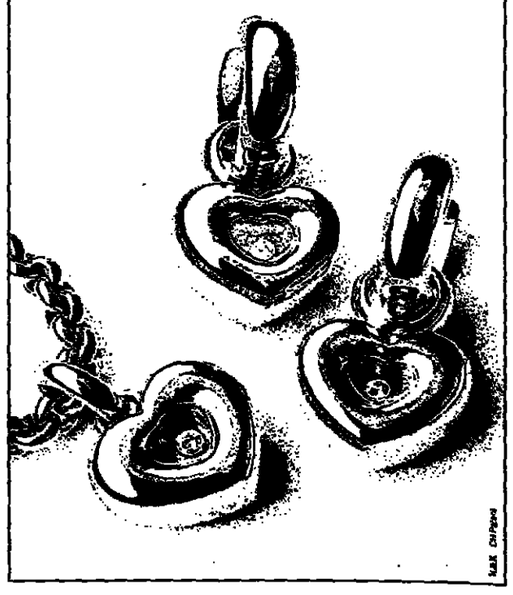
The Tories, dismayed by the intervention of Edwina Currie, the former minister, predicting a Labour win, feared that the polls might encourage the public to think that the battle was over, and drive them either to join the Labour bandwagon or stay away.

Labour, whose own private polls do not suggest a lead of the size suggested by the public surveys, is concerned that its heartland supporters might be discouraged from turning out because they think the game is over.

The Labour leadership is therefore returning for the remainder of the campaign to its strong core issues such as health and education in an attempt to maximise its support on Thursday. Its final election broadcast tonight will warn

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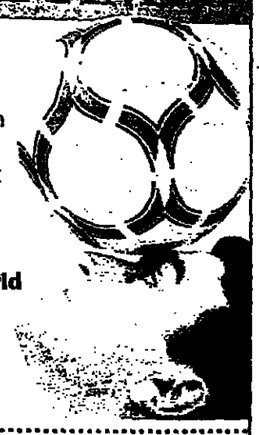


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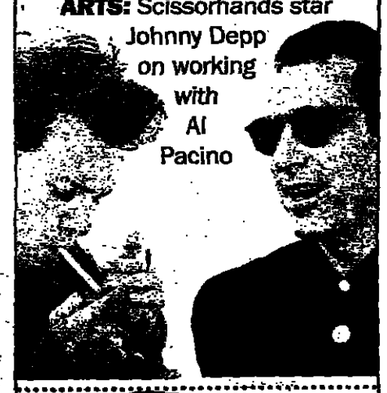
TOMORROW

Children and drugs – part 2



WEDNESDAY

ARTS: Scissorhands star Johnny Depp on working with Al Pacino



THURSDAY

FILMS Helena Bonham Carter's new movie Margaret's Museum



Oliver Holt on England's World Cup qualifier against Georgia

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ROCK AND POP

Caitlin Moran and David Sinclair on the latest releases

SATURDAY

Magazine

Alan Franks meets Dame Edna, Les Patterson – and Barry Humphries



PLUS:
WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY AND THE DIRECTORY

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The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

BA lets the train take the strain

By Harvey Elliott and Adam Sage in Paris

PASSENGERS arriving for a British Airways flight from Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris may find themselves being offered a trip on *Eurostar instead.*

The airline is refusing to load luggage into holds on its flights from the airport because of fears of attack by Algerian terrorists. Passengers for at least eight of the airline's 12 flights a day are being checked in at temporary desks on the tenth floor of the airport's terminal one but are being told that their bags must stay behind. If they protest they are offered seats on Eurostar or rival airlines.

"We do not know what it is costing, but that is a secondary consideration," BA said last night. "The security of our passengers and staff is paramount."

BA is concerned at the sudden

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Ramblers fear £1 fee would make Ben Nevis climb more taxing

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

■ Highland councillors consider charging ramblers to pay for car parks, toilets and litter collection, as well as repairs to mountain paths

RAMBLERS may soon be charged £1 to climb Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak, in a move that some fear could threaten the long-held principle of free access to the Scottish countryside.

Highland councillors will today discuss whether to introduce the fee for walkers and climbers taking part in charity events, such as the Three Peaks race, in which participants scale Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike in the Lake District. The proposal part of a new mountain code of conduct and aims to help to pay for the rising cost of providing car parks, toilet facilities and litter collection, as well as repairs to damaged mountain paths caused by the thousands of visitors each year.

The proposal has split the council and enraged outdoor groups who fear it may set a precedent and provide ammunition for lairds who object to people walking on their land. Iain MacDonald, chairman of the council's economic development committee, said he was totally opposed to the idea. "The hills of Scotland have always been free. I am active in promoting free access to the countryside, particularly where landlords have tried to stop ramblers. If we are seen to charge £1 for particular groups, then it goes against the grain. We still have Highland hospitality and we love people to come and see our mountains. We want to put as few obstacles in their path as possible."

The £1 charge to scale the 4,406 ft peak is outlined in a policy paper drawn up by John MacDonald, *leisure services manager*, for the culture and leisure services committee. It is not clear how it would be implemented but the document envisages charging £1 per rambler where large groups are involved in charity events. Some organisations already make a voluntary donation.

Neil Clarke, the committee convener, said he believed walkers should pay towards the upkeep of facilities at Glen Nevis. He said *undreds of Three Peaks races took* place each year, sometimes with as many as 2,000 participants. That placed an immense strain on facilities with council employees forced to work overtime to unblock toilets and repair eroded paths.

The £1 fee would not be a charge to climb Ben Nevis, he insisted. "We couldn't do that because we don't own the mountain. The suggestion is that there be some *charge made for the facilities*, to compensate the council."

He admitted that such a charge might be difficult to enforce and said he was preparing to put forward an alternative proposal to introduce parking charges instead, which might be more practical. At present the 200 spaces at Glen Nevis are free. Snowdon and Scafell charge for parking.

Robin Campbell, chairman of the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, said the planned fees were "completely ludicrous" although he did not object to charging for parking. He said hillwalking was worth £150 million a year to the Highland economy with 100,000 climbers visiting Ben Nevis alone.

"They spend large amounts of money in Fort William," he said. "There is no doubt Ben Nevis is the mainstay of the local economy and if they start to tax it, because that is what this amounts to, then they might scare people away. I think they are crazy to consider it."

West African fraud gangs steal £3.5bn a year from Britain

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WEST AFRICAN criminals account for nearly half of Britain's annual £8 billion losses through fraud, according to a police intelligence *report being studied by chief constables and ministers.*

The report says that gangs of Nigerians and Ghanaians steal up to £3.5 billion each year, using a range of simple but highly effective ruses. The cash comes not only from gullible individuals but also businesses and from the Government, through benefit fraud.

The losses have become so high that Britain is joining other members of the G7 economic group to put pressure on West African countries. In June a package of measures, including tighter visa controls by Western nations and new attempts to build up an international network of intelligence, will be put before the economic summit of heads of government in Denver, Colorado.

One senior Scotland Yard investigator said: "They are usually in loosely organised groups, rather like the Jamaican-based Yardie drugs gangs, but they are more sophisticated and more dangerous." He compared them to "economic terrorists" capable of widespread damage.

He said the gangs operated across a number of countries to make it difficult for investigators to track them down or bring charges. They were also highly versatile, and the often ineffective West African police forces were regarded as a poor *match.*

The latest assessment of the losses was gathered by the National Criminal Intelligence Service and is now being studied by every chief constable and CID head in the country. Scotland Yard and City of London fraud investigators deal with many of the larger frauds, but many others are handled by local fraud squads and the overall picture has never been put together before.

Two weeks ago NCIS held an international conference in London to assess the extent of the problem. Earlier this month officials and investigators preparing the agenda for the G7 summit in Denver also met in Washington to examine the problem.

An NCIS spokesman said: "There is global concern about West African organised crime. Governments internationally are looking at the problem and NCIS is part of the effort."

American investigators are as worried about the activities of the West African conmen as are senior British police officers. John Gresser, the legal attaché and FBI representative at the American Embassy in London, said: "Internationally, there is growing concern about this. It is a problem for many of the Western countries."

HOW THE SCAMS WORK

☐ **The "419" fraud:** named after the section of the Nigerian penal code dealing with fraud. Businesses and individuals are approached for help in moving crooked cash out of Nigeria in return for a cut. Having provided an advance and details of their bank accounts, they are asked for more money, and sometimes find cash has been taken from their accounts. In 1995 the Serious Fraud Office received 18,000 complaints about such approaches. One victim lost £1.5 million.

☐ **Wish-wash or black-money fraud:** involves damaged banknotes which can only be cleaned with a special liquid. A demonstration is carried out on a sample. The victim is asked to pay for more chemicals or sold the liquid and the notes which prove to be worthless paper.

☐ **Housing and social services benefit frauds:** employ multiple identities and addresses and forged documents. One conman might use 25 names in 25 accommodation addresses.

☐ **Bills of lading fraud:** victim is offered a cargo at a discount, with what look like genuine cargo documents or bills of lading to prove its existence. The victim has to put cash up front. One man lost £250,000.

BRIAN HATTON



Rowers at Leander yesterday. Members were concerned that there were no boats or facilities for women

Leander takes women on board

BY MIKE ROSEWELL AND ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S premier rowing club voted by a "clear majority" yesterday to admit women members for the first time in its 179-year history. The decision clears the way for Leander to pursue its application for a £1.5 million lottery grant to redevelop its facilities at Henley-on-Thames.

The decision to admit women was taken at a special general meeting at which substantially more than two thirds of the 162 members present voted in favour of the change. Announcing the result, John Beveridge, the secretary, read a statement saying that the club intended to continue its existing "gold medal-winning" policy of concentrating on men's heavyweight rowing.

The membership had decided to consider the admission of women and the grant application separately after Matthew Pinsent, Leander's double Olympic gold medallist, and several club coaches argued that Leander did not have boats or space to provide facilities for women equal to those it offered as a "high performance" centre for heavyweight men, as designated by the Amateur Rowing Association.

The Leander membership, although happy to accept women members, were clearly not prepared to jeopardise the club's contribution to men's heavyweight international rowing for sake of a £1.5 million of lottery money. Chris Rodrigues, the club chairman, said: "Leander will pursue its lottery application providing it can be assumed that this will in no way compromise its rowing policy."

Ivor Lloyd, captain of Leander for the past 13 years, said: "The lottery may need to revise its rules if it wishes to support international athletes such as Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent at high performance centres such as Leander. By definition they cannot cater for all and sundry as a local leisure centre might."

Mr Rodrigues said: "Reassuringly, the Sports Council completely accepts that Leander is an elite rowing club and is not open to everyone."

There is unlikely to be a rush of women to join a club, which at present lacks the facilities for them. High performance centres for women are situated in other locations such as London and Marlow, the latter under the control of the new women's chief coach, Mike Spracklen. The choice of such centres is determined by the Amateur Rowing Association, and not by the clubs concerned.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shake-up 'will make courts worse'

Politicians will be warned tonight not to implement proposals by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, for a court shake-up to cut costs and delays. Professor Michael Zander, QC, member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice which reported in 1973, says the Woolf plan for judges to be trial managers will worsen the system.

In the spring lecture to the Chancery Bar Association, he is due to say that American experience shows that where judges take control of the pace of litigation, there are higher costs and an increase in uncontrolled judicial discretion. Courts need intervene only in the minority of cases where lawyers abuse the system, he says.

Unhealthy cells

Prison governors are asking for a medical opinion on whether cells in Britain's first *modern prison ship will be* too dark to use. David Roden, chairman of Prison Governors' Association, is asking the Prison Service's chief medical officer to consider examining accommodation on board HMP Weare, which is due to take prisoners this summer.

Protest warning

Animal rights protests may become more violent, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front said after a weekend of confrontation. A firebomb attack caused damage at a livestock haulier in Warwickshire and nine people were arrested at demonstrations in Oxfordshire. The spokesman said there was a new mood of anger about the way animals were treated.

Prince's party

The Prince of Wales will host a tea party tomorrow for the traditionalist Prayer Book Society at St James's Palace, London, to mark the society's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The decision by the Prince to host the reception is being interpreted as a sign of his commitment to the Church of England at a time when the society's membership is growing.

Family album



Linda McCartney, 54, hugs one of her horses in a family snap taken by her husband, Sir Paul, for his new album. It is the first photograph to be released since she underwent chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. Since the disease was diagnosed in 1995, she has been pictured publicly only once, during a brief acceptance speech at an animal-rights awards ceremony.

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Final push

Continued from page 1

people of the risks of not voting and today Labour will repeat its claims that the Government is intent on a "creeping privatisation" of the health service.

It intends to focus on a *leaked memorandum from* Norwich Union Healthcare, Britain's third biggest private medical insurer, which apparently looks at ways of signing up new customers who might have a feeling of "guilt towards abandoning the NHS".

Mr Blair yesterday opened a new front, condemning Conservative proposals for a grammar school in every town as "fatuous, absurd and dangerous" because for every new grammar there would be four or five secondary moderns.

The polls, suggestions of discontent in the high command, and signals that the backers of the main Tory leadership contenders are quietly preparing for a post-election contest failed to dent the determination of Mr Major yesterday.

Conservative candidates, including senior ministers, continued to maintain that the *position in the constituencies* was better than that suggested by the polls, although it is now difficult to find anyone who truly believes that they can win outright.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democratic leader, insisted yesterday that it was "hugely premature" to assume that Labour was heading for a landslide victory. He said voters had seen the election robbed from them by politicians. "Let not now the the press decide to rob them of the result."

Attorney-General challenged by banned litigant

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Attorney-General is facing a challenge for his seat at the general election by one of the growing band of people barred from the courts as "vexatious litigants".

Lew Foley, 59, a former heating engineer, is standing as an independent Conservative in Bedfordshire North East as a way of airing his grievances against Sir Nicholas Lyell over what he says he has suffered at the hands of solicitors and the courts.

The challenge by Mr Foley — who has lodged 37 civil actions in 25 years — follows that of another "vexatious litigant", Peter Rubery Hayward, a businessman who changed his name by deed poll to Sir Nicholas Lyell. The Attorney-General was forced to go to court two weeks ago to obtain an injunction to stop his namesake standing and confusing the electors. Mr Foley and the former Mr Hayward have been barred from the courts under the powers that judges have to blacklist "vexatious litigants".

The list, obtained by *The Times*, shows that there has been a steady increase in the number of litigants being banned from the courts. Since records began in 1888, 128 people have been barred from the courts. On average, five people a year are now banned. Once on the list, which is circulated to courts, they are never "rehabilitated" and remain there, even after death.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, told *The Times* that any rise in the number of people banned from the courts was *likely to be related to the* significant growth in the number of litigants in person — people acting without lawyers. "Some people are just mischievous but others have a real sense of grievance." Lord Woolf said. "Perhaps they don't understand the rulings they have been given or perhaps the courts have not served them well."

The Attorney-General's power to request the High *Court to declare a person is* vexatious is now contained in section 42 of the Supreme Court Act 1981. About 20 requests are made each year although the Attorney-General does not act on them all. His applications have never been turned down by the courts.

Under the Act, a person must have "habitually and persistently and without any reasonable ground" brought vexatious proceeedings. Factors the Attorney-General considers include the number of actions brought by the person, the circumstances and character of the litigation, degree of hardship caused and likelihood of the legal actions going on if an order is not obtained.

BA lets the train take the strain

Continued from page 1

arrival of Air Algérie at the airport. The airline, which has three flights a day to Algeria, was granted permission to open two check-in desks alongside those of BA, but BA officials claim that it is not subject to the same security screening and police protection given to Air Algérie operations at other French airports.

In protest, BA refused to operate from the airport on Saturday while the Air Algérie desk was manned. Instead, BA switched its flights to Orly, leading to delays and confusion for passengers.

But furious French officials accused BA of acting illegally and sent a faxed warning that the airline would lose its licence to fly to Paris at all if it continued to divert flights to Orly. "The security measures were agreed with the state before Air Algérie resumed flying, and we consider they were sufficient," a spokesman for Aéroports de Paris said yesterday.

Security was tight for Air Algérie's first flights to the French capital for two years, according to the French. But BA was unrepentant. "The security of our passengers and staff is all important, and we are very concerned about the adequacy of the security arrangements for dealing with Air Algérie," a spokesman said.

"We complained to the British Government and to the French authorities, and although we did divert a few flights to Orly, we have now moved them back to Charles de Gaulle in view of the fax."

Now BA, backed at least in spirit by other airlines at Charles de Gaulle, is appealing to a tribunal in Paris to try to rescind Air Algérie's licence to operate to the airport unless security is tightened. The airline is particularly concerned because hold baggage is sent down the same chute as BA bags and is sorted in the same bagagge area.

Most passengers with hold bags are happy to leave them with BA to follow on a later flight after Air Algérie has closed its desks for the day. But a few prefer to fly with other airlines or switch to Eurostar.

هكذا من الأصل

Screams put down to weekend drinkers

Police hunt killer of woman stabbed in pub car park

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

MURDER squad detectives have interviewed more than a hundred drinkers at a pub where a judge's daughter was stabbed to death minutes after last orders were called.

Police believe that the killer lunged at Rachel McGrath, 27, as she stepped out of her dark Peugeot in the car park of the Victoria Tavern in Bramhall, Greater Manchester, shortly after 11pm on Friday. Miss McGrath, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, who was due to pick up her boyfriend from the pub, was stabbed repeatedly, mainly in the throat.

People living near by heard screams around the time of her death, but put them down to Friday night revellers. Miss McGrath's body was found at 11.08pm by a woman who had also arrived to pick up her boyfriend from the pub.

Greater Manchester Police have set up an incident room in Stockport. They have issued an appeal for anybody who was in the pub after 10pm on Friday to contact them. So far they have questioned more than 100 drinkers. Friends and neighbours of Miss McGrath spoke of a friendly woman who was devoted to her boyfriend, Kevin Forster. Mr Forster, who works as a financial adviser, came out of the pub to see her lying dead on the ground. His father, Ian, 56, speaking at their home in Bramhall, said: "Kevin is devastated. It is a terrible thing to have happened."



Rachel McGrath: had gone to fetch boyfriend

Brian McGrath, the victim's father, works as a district judge and sits in the Family Division in Manchester, ruling mainly on domestic cases. Miss McGrath, who worked for the Halifax Building Society, had lived with Mr Forster for two years.

She was featured with her boyfriend and his family in the Money Mail section of the *Daily Mail* last week. They were used to illustrate an article about the Halifax Building Society. She was shown smiling into the camera beside a caption that suggested she was in line to receive 200 free shares.

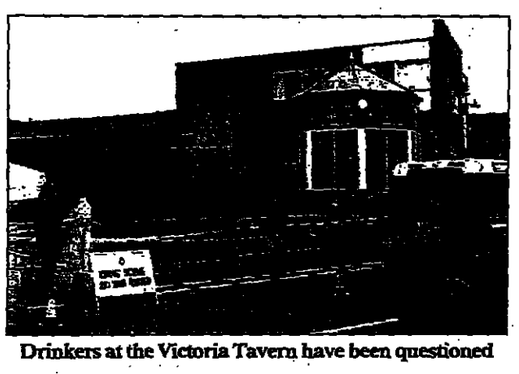
Gary Rose, 24, a neighbour, said: "It is a terrible thing to happen. You just don't expect that sort of thing to happen to someone you know. She seemed a very nice woman and they looked like a really happy couple, always doing things together. They were very friendly with the other neighbours, too."

Miss McGrath's brother, Michael, 30, a solicitor, said: "Everyone is very distressed. We are working closely with the police at the moment to try to catch who did this."

One neighbour said: "We went to dinner with Brian and Diane [Ms McGrath's parents] only last week. Everyone is very shocked by the news. They are a lovely family."

Detectives yesterday refused to speculate about any motive or comment on whether anybody was being questioned in connection with the incident.

Detective Superintendent David Gartside, who is in charge of the investigation, said: "We are still anxious to trace anyone who was in the vicinity of the Bramhall precinct on Friday, April 25, who may have seen anything suspicious."



Drinkers at the Victoria Tavern have been questioned



HUW EVANS

Angharad Mair will feature in front of the cameras when she runs in the world championships in August

TV presenter puts in marathon stint

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

UNTIL six years ago, Angharad Mair's running had been confined to the hockey pitch at school. Yesterday she learnt she had been selected to run the marathon for Britain in this summer's world athletics championships in Athens.

Mair's introduction to the marathon came, somewhat unexpectedly, with her job. The BBC Wales news and sport television presenter had gone for an interview with S4C in Cardiff, where she was told that the Welsh language station was looking for something out of the ordinary. Mair replied that she was thinking of running a marathon. "It was a bit of a line, to be honest," she said. However, the channel took her at her word, offered her employment presenting a magazine programme, and assigned her to run the New York City Marathon. She finished in 3 hours 29 minutes.

Now nothing stands in the way of her 80 miles-a-week training. On Saturday, the day she heard of her selection, she managed two sessions, one before presenting the last, historic rugby union match at Cardiff Arms Park, the second between evening news bulletins. She was to have lined up alongside Liz McColgan in Athens in August, but the country's leading marathon runner has decided not to compete.

Now one of the most recognisable faces in Wales, Mair, 35, gets some strange looks running round Cardiff with a baseball cap pulled down to her eyes and "full glam make-up. But if I get back late after reading the news, I'm not going to bother taking it all off."

Marathon squad, page 26

Daylight rapist strikes in city park

BY DES BURKINSHAW

WOMEN are being warned not to walk alone in a Leeds city park until a daylight rapist has been caught. The man repeatedly raped a victim on Saturday afternoon while other people strolled near by.

The 31-year-old had been walking her Collie dog by Waterloo Lake in Roundhay Park at about 5pm. The man threatened her with a knife and dragged her down a steep bank to an old swimming pool where he assaulted her. When he heard other park users approaching, he dragged her into woodland and raped her. He ended his attack after 20 minutes and ran off, leaving his traumatised victim to raise the alarm.

Detective Inspector Mark Smith said: "She resisted as much as she dared but she was too scared for her safety to put up a serious fight. This man is very dangerous. It was a very determined attack. I think he had gone to the park for that purpose, and he was not scared off by other people being around.

"For the safety of females, my advice is to have safety in numbers when they are walking there. Until we find this individual, do not go walking alone."

The rapist was white, about 5ft 11ins, aged 17 to 25, with short, unkempt ginger hair and a wispy ginger beard or facial hair. He was wearing a baseball cap, a shiny blue bomber jacket and light blue jeans.

Irish collectors trace stolen goods to Newark market

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FRUSTRATED Irish collectors are liaising with police in Britain rather than Ireland in the hope of retrieving some of the £5 million-worth of antiques stolen from the Republic every year.

They say they have "given up" on the Garda, which has neither the time nor resources to devote to the problem. Many of the stolen pieces end up on market stalls in Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Ardingly, West Sussex, within 48 hours. They fetch higher prices there than in Ireland.

Jeffry Lefroy, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Irish Heritage Objects, said his organisation was dealing directly with police in Britain. He said: "The problem of furniture theft has reached epidemic proportions. We have no choice but to take action ourselves."

A member from the council travelled undercover as a buyer to the market in Newark. Assisted by Nottinghamshire police, he found a £5,000 Victorian clock stolen last year from an elderly couple in Co Kildare. The undercover buyer said: "The gardai are underpaid, worn out and so overstretched trying to deal with the drug gangs in Dublin that they have no time for the antiques problem."

Investigators believe most of the thefts are carried out by four gangs, who use networks of friends and relations in Britain to dispose of the stolen goods. The gangs are highly mobile and knowledgeable about antiques.

Mr Lefroy set up the organisation two years ago after his Victorian home in Co Longford was robbed and £150,000 of Regency, Dutch and Italian furniture stolen. His 1740s Italian games table has been traced to Christie's, New York. It arrived there from Surrey, via an antiques dealer in Alabama.

The Garda said the gangs were difficult to track because they moved quickly from one area to another. Most thefts are concentrated on the east coast, where the gangs have ready access to the ports. Gardai are planning a meeting with British police to trace the antiques, and are trying to identify routes used by the gangs. Once stolen, the furniture is loaded on flat-bed lorries, vans and horse-boxes, transferred to container lorries and taken by ferry to Britain. Georgian pieces are the most lucrative, although garden furniture, particularly Victorian, is also profitable.

Charlie Hill, a former policeman and Risk Manager with Nordstern art insurance company in London, said: "I know of people in prison who watch the *Antiques Road Show* to educate themselves on what is valuable. Antiques are now seen as far less dangerous than drugs while still generating the same kind of income."

Two youths arrested in Ulster over church fire

BY AUDREY MAGEE

TWO Protestant teenagers will appear in court today charged with an arson attack on a Roman Catholic church in Northern Ireland.

Their appearance at a special court in Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, comes after a weekend of mounting tension in the province. Three youths were injured in weekend riots and police yesterday stopped an Orange Order parade passing through a Catholic section of Belfast.

The youths, aged 18 and 19, face charges of burglary and of setting fire to St Nicholas's Church. The church is close to where the youths live in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. Five fires were lit in the church early on Saturday, destroying a large section of the interior and roof. It was the twelfth attack on a church this month.

In Belfast, police used Land Rovers to prevent an Orange Order parade passing through the Catholic section of the Lower Ormeau Road. Up to 80 Orangemen protested and sang hymns at the police line, demanding to be allowed to pass through.

Three people were injured during rioting yesterday morning. A 13-year-old boy was treated in hospital for a cut above his left eye. He was hit by a plastic bullet fired by troops under attack from a crowd in Lurgan, Co Armagh. There were also clashes in Portadown, where two youths were injured.

Muslims hope to make Oxford a city of dreaming minarets

BY ROBIN YOUNG

MUSLIMS are planning to build a college combining Islamic and gothic styles in the heart of Oxford's university area. The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, of which the Prince of Wales is patron, is studying draft designs for a site neighbouring the Cherwell and Magdalen College deer park.

The centre, for about 100 fellows and students, would be designed by an Egyptian sometimes described as Islam's Quinlan Terry, Abdel Wahed al-Wakil, who has built many mosques in the Middle East, is the leading Muslim architect based in Britain. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has agreed to fund the building, so no expense is likely to be spared. Abdel Wahed Al-Wakil's initial designs for the 1.66-acre site marry traditional Islamic motifs with the gothic typical of Oxford's other buildings.

The dome of the centre's prayer hall would echo that of the University Library's Radcliffe Camera. The mosque's minaret, with its Moroccan elements, is akin to the twin towers of All Souls College.

Kate Miller, the planning secretary of the Oxford Civic Society, said yesterday: "The style mixes gothic and Islamic but then that is what makes Venice so beautiful." David Townsend, another society officer, said: "To my Western eye, it is not what I would call beautiful." Moira Haynes of the Oxford Preservation Trust, which may oppose the planning application, said the building would affect the area's architectural balance.

Mr Al-Wakil, whose buildings include the Corniche mosque in Jeddah, is based in London. The studies centre is recognised by the university and is influential academically.

Leading article, page 21



Coming or going, you'll know the time.

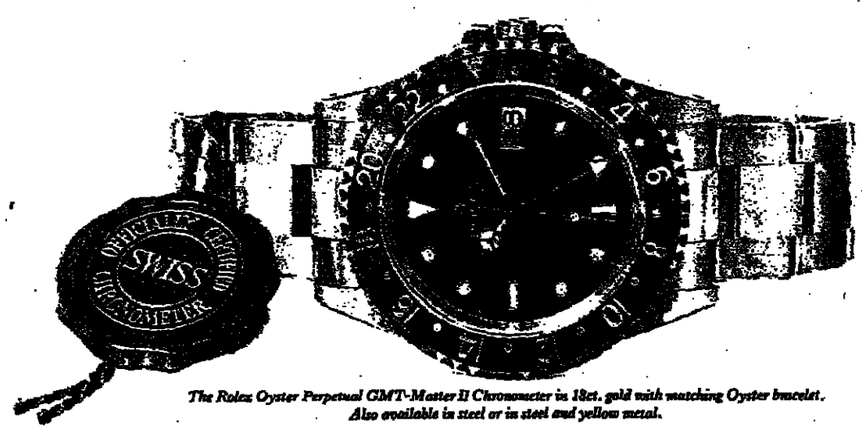
It's easy to lose track of time at 60,000 feet, but not for the Rolex GMT-Master II. Developed to be used by intercontinental pilots, this watch shows the time in two time zones at a glance.

The GMT-Master II worn by Concorde Captain Steve Wand allows him to read London time with the conventional hour and minute hands, and he can read New York time with the 24-hour hand and the clearly marked rotating bezel that is the hallmark of this classic design.

Says Captain Wand: "My GMT-Master II is like Concorde. When you settle on a design that is successful, you want to keep it."

You'll agree, even if you don't fly quite as often as he does.

ROLEX of Geneva



The Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II Chronometer in 18ct. gold with matching Oyster bracelet. Also available in steel or in steel and yellow metal.

Only a select group of jewellers sell Rolex watches. For the address of your nearest Rolex jeweller, and for further information on the complete range of Rolex watches, write to: The Rolex Watch Company Limited, 3 Stratford Place, London W1N 0ER or telephone 0171-629 5071.

Close-knit farming village of 3,000 years ago is 'preserved like Pompeii' beneath Fenland clay

Dig uncovers plot for Bronze Age Archers

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AN EVERYDAY story of Bronze Age farming folk is emerging from the excavation of a plot of land on the edge of the Lincolnshire fens. Archaeologists believe it may be the best preserved and most extensive remains of a Late Bronze Age farming community in Britain, right down to the plough marks and two cart ruts.

Even the topsoil that the villagers once tilled and grazed in Lincolnshire has been found preserved under layers of alluvial clay, laid down in later times in the flood plain of the River Welland. "It is what I call the Pompeii effect, with clay in this case taking the place of volcanic ash as the preserving agent," said Dr Francis Pryor, the archaeological site director.

"It is unheard-of and very exciting to find such a large expanse of Bronze Age soil surviving intact." Slowly emerging from an 18-acre excavation area is an agricultural landscape of 2,500 to 3,000 years ago, with an earthwork bank, field boundaries and postholes which once held the uprights of rectangular thatched huts, suggesting a substantial village.


An artist's impression of a Bronze Age farm at work

Already 17,500 pieces of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery and animal bone have been found in the northern part of the site. There is also evidence that the ancestors of farmers such as Radio 4's Phil and Jill Archer had their own strong ideas about soil management and husbanding resources.

The full potential of the site, just outside Deeping St James, near Market Deeping, has come to light because of the happy conjunction of commercial and archaeological interests. Dr Pryor said: "A gravel extraction company applied to extend a quarry into neighbouring farmland. A condition of planning approval was that the company would fund a dig. If the company had not wanted to put in a gravel pit here, we would have been unable to look underneath the half-metre or so of clay which covers everything, and would have been left with only the vague indications of aerial photographs."

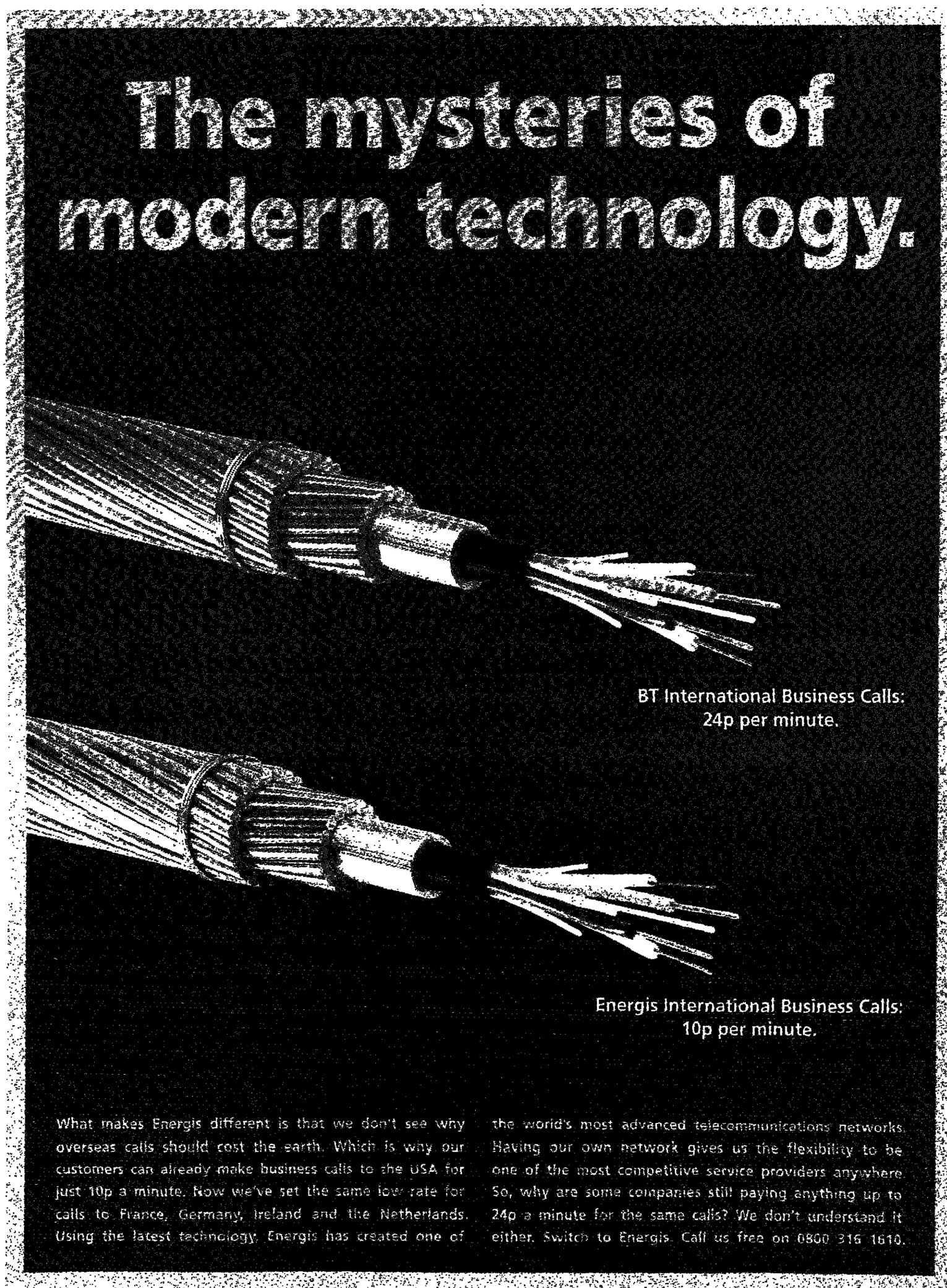
Photographs taken during last year's dry summer had revealed a tell-tale pattern of criss-crossing dark lines in wheat and barley crops, suggesting the extensive system of little square fields, divided by dykes and ditches.

The archaeologists are particularly intrigued by an area of dark earth, about two football pitches in size, which appears to have been deliberately enriched with pottery shards and crushed animal bones. Charlie French, a soil scientist at the Department of Archaeology at Cambridge University, said: "My feeling is that the farmers were digging fragments of pottery, bone and farmyard waste into the soil to make it more friable and to create a fertile tilth for a market gardening-type of agriculture. The crops could have included bean-type vegetables as well as cereals."

MICHAEL POWELL


Francis Pryor among the site markings near Deeping St James. He said: "It is unheard-of and very exciting"

Large amounts of charcoal in the soil suggest some primitive industrial process, possibly extracting salt by heating and evaporating brackish water from coastal marshes that reached inland. Scientists think that livestock — cattle and sheep, with smaller numbers of pigs — were the mainstay of the settlement. This contradicts a traditional view that cereal-growing played the biggest part in Britain's farming past. Tom Lane, of Archaeological Project Services, which is carrying out the dig, said: "We have an extensive network of little paddocks which were used for stock management rather than crop growing."



NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA was behind M6 blast

The IRA yesterday admitted that it was behind a bomb blast at an electricity pylon near the M6 on Friday. A caller using a recognised codeword told the RTE broadcasting network in Dublin that IRA volunteers had planted the bomb.

It went went off shortly before 9am during a series of alerts that led to the closure of motorways across the Midlands, causing huge traffic problems. New Street railway station in Birmingham and Luton airport were also closed because of scares.

Ransom blow

Roy and Betty Howes, parents of the mines expert Christopher Howes, said they would "soldier on" despite disappointment over his employers' failure to free him from his Cambodian kidnappers with a £75,000 ransom.

Allwood pregnant

Mandy Allwood, who lost octuplets in October after receiving fertility treatment, is pregnant again. Ms Allwood, 32, from Solihull, West Midlands, said she and her partner, Paul Hudson, 38, "think it's just the one this time".

RAF house sold

The ten-bedroom RAF house near Cheltenham, which led to Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson retiring after he ordered £387,000 refurbishments, has been sold to an unnamed buyer for around the £450,000 asking price.

Canaries stolen

Police are appealing for information about the theft of 25 show birds from an aviary in the Heathhall area of Dumfries. The Border canaries, worth about £500, were feeding young and hatching eggs in the unlocked aviary.

Jumbo jet

A strong-smelling spray to repel elephants from newly cultivated land has been developed by a Cambridge University scientist. The spray, made from chilli peppers, is poured into launch-fired reusable cannisters.

Life may have come from sea bubbles

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO geologists from Glasgow University believe they know how life began. It happened more than four billion years ago at the bottom of the ocean, where two streams of water from warm springs met, according to Michael Russell and Allan Hall.

One stream came from the crust of the Earth at a temperature of 200C, enriched in hydrogen and bisulphide from the rocks. The other was ocean water at a temperature of 90C and strongly acidic because of dissolved carbon dioxide.

As the two streams met, chemical reactions formed a membrane of iron sulphide between them. This preserved the chemical imbalances between the two waters, and formed a catalyst on which organic molecules could be synthesised.

The sea water provided carbonates and phosphates, carbonic acid, iron and nickel, while the water from the crust provided ammonia, acetate, hydrogen sulphide, hydrogen, tungsten, organic sulphides, cyanide and acetaldehyde, according to the theory, published in the *Journal of the Geological Society*.

"There is a lot of similarity between the chemistry of life and the chemistry of warm springs," Dr Hall says. "What we are trying to do is to show how conditions in the Earth only 100 million years or so after its formation could have led to that chemistry."

Their model envisages mounds of sulphide forming at the spring sites, and the iron sulphide membranes forming as bubbles, filled with spring water rising from below. Reactions taking place at the membrane formed organic polymers containing sulphur and nitrogen, which lined the surface of the bubbles, beginning a process in which they were transformed into the first cells.

Within these cells the first amino acids could have been produced as carboxylic acids reacted with ammonia. Eventually the genetic materials RNA and DNA would have emerged, giving the cells the ability to reproduce.

Men really suffer more than women

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MEN who claim to be deaf to babies' cries in the night may not be pretending, according to a survey that examined differences between the sexes. It is claimed that men cannot help being inferior to women in a number of ways because of their biological make-up.

The survey of 500 men and women, by the makers of Nurofen, a painkiller, shows that men take to their beds at the first sign of a sniffle, are unable to tolerate pain as much as women and are less aware of babies crying.

The survey, reported in *She* magazine, suggests that men take nearly twice as much time off as women when they have a cold or flu. When a couple are ill at the same time, it is the woman who ends up looking after both of them. According to the magazine, men really do suffer more. "The female body is designed to operate in a constantly changing hormonal climate and, therefore, women seem better able to tolerate disturbances of the body's equilibrium."

The claims on pain tolerance are based on an American study, also reported in *She*, of 20 men and 28 women. It found that, after having their wisdom teeth out, women reported more pain than men, but experienced a sharp decrease in pain after taking a painkiller. Men, however, gained only limited relief.

BMA backs sex education and calls for more funding

By Ian Murray and Emma Wilkins



Sex advice: this 1994 book was withdrawn

SEX education is effective in delaying first-time intercourse, encouraging the use of condoms and reducing teenage pregnancy, the British Medical Association says today. Programmes advocating no sex before marriage have not worked, it adds.

In the first report of its kind from the BMA, it calls for sex education to be part of initial teacher training, and to be backed with more resources and research into effective methods. The survey found a need for specific guidance for parents on how to talk about sex with their children. Co-operation between school and home was the most effective way of teaching.

Three years ago a book giving teenagers advice on sex, called *Your Pocket Guide to Sex* and published by the Health Education Authority, was withdrawn after Brian Mawhinney, then health minister, condemned it as smutty.

The BMA says that sex education has to allow for different attitudes, values, home environment and religious, cultural or ethnic backgrounds.

Responsible teaching about homosexuality "is especially important to meet the needs of young people who may be growing up gay, lesbian or bisexual". This was necessary because of the risks to mental or physical health to which such children might be exposed by social isolation, bullying and lack of self-esteem.

"The school can provide a neutral environment for advice and guidance where parents may be hostile to homosexuality."

The study, which collected evidence from doctors and analysed research by organisations such as the Sex Education Forum, says that the classroom is not a good place for staff or pupils to talk about their personal relationships, and advocates using case histories instead.

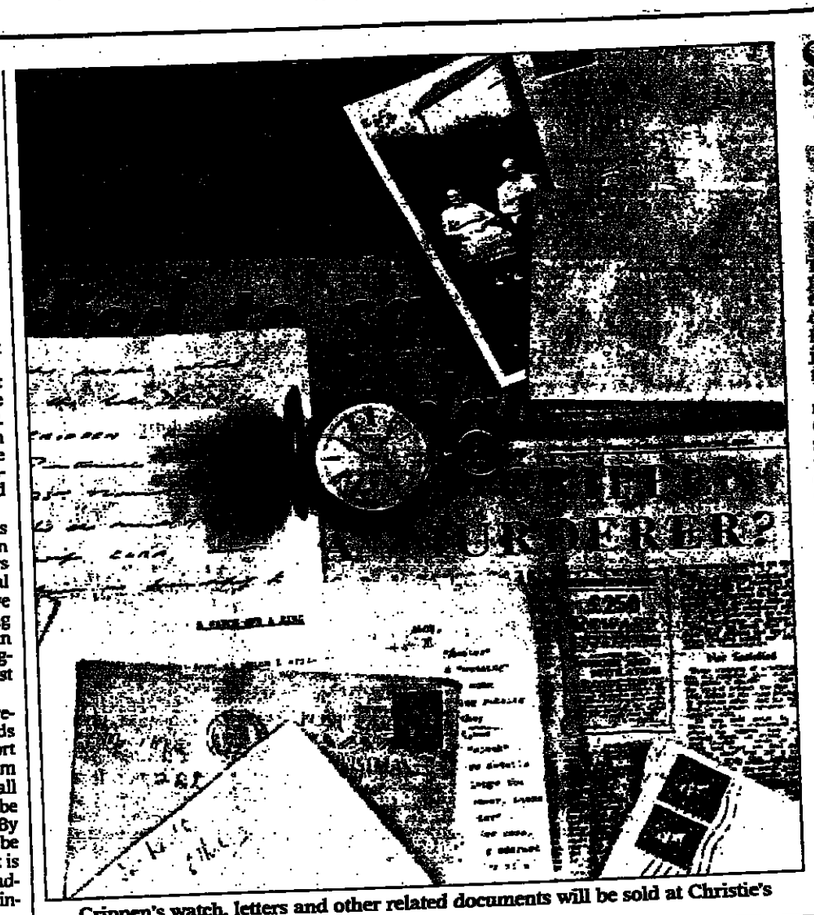
However, it says children need individual advice and support within the school. Those with problems should be encouraged to inform their parents but, if they refuse, the school should respect their confidentiality and find other support.

Valerie Riches, the director of Family and Youth Concern, said she was saddened but not surprised. "The BMA has always fallen in with the sex education lobby.

"I really can't imagine what they mean by the responsible teaching of homosexuality. One would like them to teach what happens as a result of the abnormal practice of homosexuality — that is, the spread of HIV."

Mrs Riches said parents should be directly involved in sex education. "Youngsters are being taught in a moral vacuum that it's OK to have sex. I want to see them being taught that marriage is an ideal. Instead it's being suggested that marriage is just one of many options."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the report confirmed the evidence from schools, but doubted that all new teachers should be trained in sex education. "By no means all teachers will be involved in sex education. It is probably something best addressed through targeted in-service training."



Crippen's watch, letters and other related documents will be sold at Christie's

Sale of watch recalls moment when time ran out for Crippen

By Robin Young



Crippen in the dock at the Old Bailey

THE gilt pocket watch that Dr Hawley Crippen, one of the 20th century's most notorious murderers, bequeathed to his mistress, Ethel Le Neve, just before he was hanged, goes on sale this week.

Crippen murdered and dismembered his second wife, Cora, and tried to escape to the United States with his mistress. He became the first criminal to be apprehended by radio, when the captain of the liner on which he was fleeing became suspicious and alerted Scotland Yard.

The sale at Christie's on Wednesday also includes letters about the watch from Miss Le Neve to her friend Rex Manning, copies of Crippen's statement to the police, and a letter from him authorising his solicitor to sell all the belongings at his home. The watch is expected to fetch up to £2,000.

Miss Le Neve was acquitted of being an accessory to murder and, after Crippen's execution in 1910, left the country. She later returned to England and married a bookkeeper, Stanley Smith, to whom she never revealed her identity.

She gave the watch to him as a wedding present, but when she died in 1962, aged over 80, she bequeathed it to Mr Manning, the only person with whom she shared the secret of her past.

Mr Manning described the watch as a "silent witness" in his records, which are being sold with the watch by the present owner, his nephew, who intends to donate the proceeds of the sale to leukaemia research.

Problem pupils must be tackled young, say heads

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MANY primary schools are passing on disciplinary problems to secondary schools, rather than tackling disruptive pupils at an age when their behaviour could be moderated, secondary head teachers claimed yesterday.

Peter Miller, the president of the Secondary Heads Association, said many of the most troublesome teenagers were set in their ways by the time they left primary school. But the procedure involved in securing extra help for children with behavioural problems was so lengthy that primary schools did not benefit unless they took action at an early age, he said.

All the teaching unions, at their spring conferences, have been concerned with the growing problem of indiscipline. Expulsions topped 13,000 for the first time this year, and schools have been given the right to impose longer suspensions in an attempt to halt the rise.

Mr Miller, in his presidential address to the association's conference in Torquay, said that procedures had to be streamlined and resources increased to enable the education system to cope with disruptive children. "I would also ask that our primary colleagues do not succumb to the temptation to defer dealing with difficult children on the grounds that they will be leaving their school soon."

John Sutton, the association's general secretary, said primary schools tended to contain troublesome pupils, rather than seeking outside help, which was often scarce and difficult to obtain. "It is possible to do this when the pupil concerned is young, immature and fairly small, but not when they become strapping adolescents who may be bigger than their teachers."

Mr Sutton said the association was not criticising primary schools. "It is another manifestation of the shortage of resources which has depleted services such as education psychology."

But Liz Paver, the incoming president of the National Association of Head Teachers, which represents most primary school heads, said it was unfair to make primary schools responsible for tackling the problem without the necessary help.

"We must have more units where young children can go for a short period before being reintegrated into their schools," she said.

Ms Paver, the head teacher of Intake Primary School, in Doncaster, added: "We are pilloried in some quarters if we do seek help because people think primary schools ought to be able to handle young children. In fact, we face all the same problems as secondary schools, but on a smaller scale. Five-year-olds are quite capable of abusing teachers and throwing things at them."

Exclusions from primary school rose from 378 in 1991-92 to 1,445 in 1994-95, and are still rising. A survey by academics at Portsmouth University found that there had been an eight-fold rise in suspensions.

Farmers back call to halt bird decline

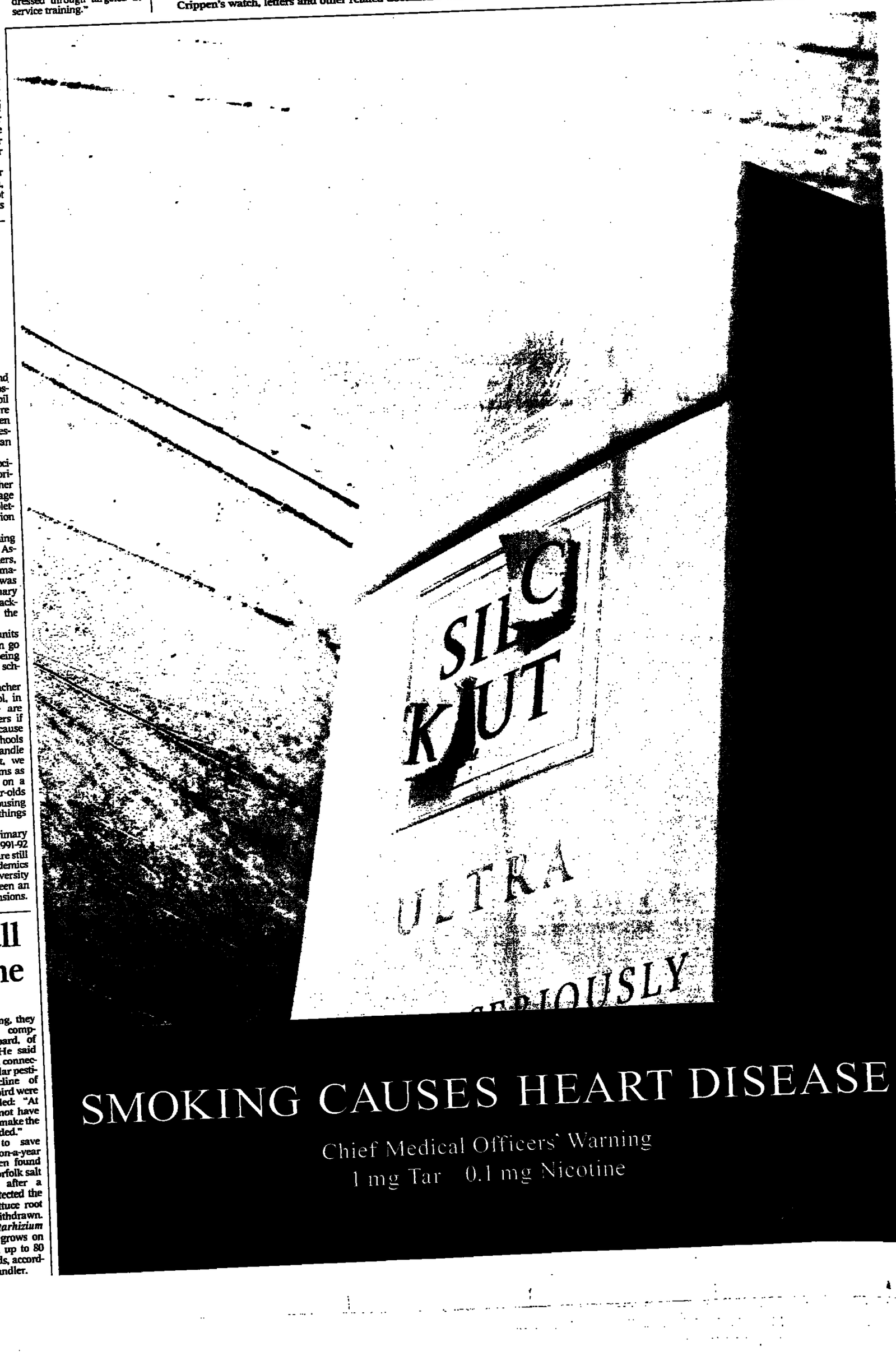
By Robin Young

A GOVERNMENT report blaming intensive farming and pesticides for much of the decline in Britain's bird population is likely to be welcomed by both the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the National Farmers' Union.

The report, the outcome of five years' study by the Government's wildlife advisory bodies, notes that in 25 years tree sparrow numbers have fallen by almost nine tenths, grey partridges by four fifths, turtle doves, bullfinches and song thrushes by three quarters, lapwings and skylarks by nearly two thirds, and blackbirds by more than two fifths.

Ian Gardiner, of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday that farmers were already collaborating in conservation but that, if measures conflicted with farming, they would have to be compensated. Chris Harbard, of the RSPB, agreed. He said that, for the first time, connections between particular pesticides and the decline of particular species of bird were appearing, but added: "At present farmers do not have enough incentives to make the changes that are needed."

□ A green way to save Britain's £100 million-a-year lettuce crop has been found by scientists on a Norfolk salt marsh, two years after a pesticide which protected the crop against the lettuce root aphid had to be withdrawn. The fungus *Metarhizium amisopliae*, which grows on the marsh, can kill up to 80 per cent of the aphids, according to Dr Dave Chandler.





FILM IMAGES

Not quite James Bond: Viney, left, hands documents to Popov at London Zoo. But the alert chaps from counter-espionage are monitoring them by car and from behind net curtains, and the pair are nabbed

How Cholmondeley-Warner saved the West



Harry Enfield in his black-and-white spoofs

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

■ Whitehall's Cold War training films are to be released on video. The first is closer to an Ealing Comedy than to James Bond

IT WAS all jolly hush-hush in its time: a top-secret spy film made for training Secret Service recruits. Now it has been declassified for sale as a video. Some shops may be unsure whether to file it under nostalgia, thriller or light entertainment.

The 60-minute film, *Persona Non Grata*, was made in 1964, at the height of the Cold War and two years after the first James Bond film, *Dr No*. Away from the public image of international tension and glamorous women, the secret reality features quintessential *Englishmen* speaking in the clipped tones of Harry Enfield's satirical characters Mr Cholmondeley-Warner and Mr Grayson, and includes a lowly defence clerk enduring unspoken difficulties in his friendship with a Russian.

Peter Steel, of the Central Office of Information, who remembers the film being commissioned from his department 33 years ago, said that he had fought hard to have it declassified because of the educational and nostalgic value it would have today. The original documents accompanying the film said it was commissioned by the Treasury, but it was clearly destined for use by the secret services. He said: "It was done as a drama because it's probably the most effective way of teaching anybody working in sensitive areas about standard, routine security procedures."

Shot in black and white on location in London and Windsor, on a budget of £20,000, *Persona Non Grata* tells the story of Cyril Viney, a friendless young man who is persuaded to steal secret documents from his uncaring boss at the Ministry of Defence. The persuader is a Russian diplomat, Nikolai Popov, who befriends Viney and praises his poetry. When Viney invites Popov to dinner at his digs — his first guest for four years — he says: "I find it difficult to talk to some people ... most people, in fact."

Popov asks Viney for a favour — a small matter about providing information on the Polaris fleet — and says he will be hurt if Viney's friendship is "the kind that takes but does not give ... it would be very sad if something happened that would spoil a friendship that has come to mean so much to both of us".

Viney is seen handing over packages and microfilm in meetings at London Zoo and St James's Park. Happily, the chaps from counter-espionage are on to them, and the West is saved.

Persona Non Grata is one of about 10,000 COI films transferred this month to the Film Images library for possible commercial use. The Crown retains copyright and the Treasury hopes to generate some income. Film Images hopes to release *Persona Non Grata* on video as a double bill with *The Lector*, another 1960s security film featuring a Russian spy giving a lecture about espionage.

Doctors pay out £41m to patients

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

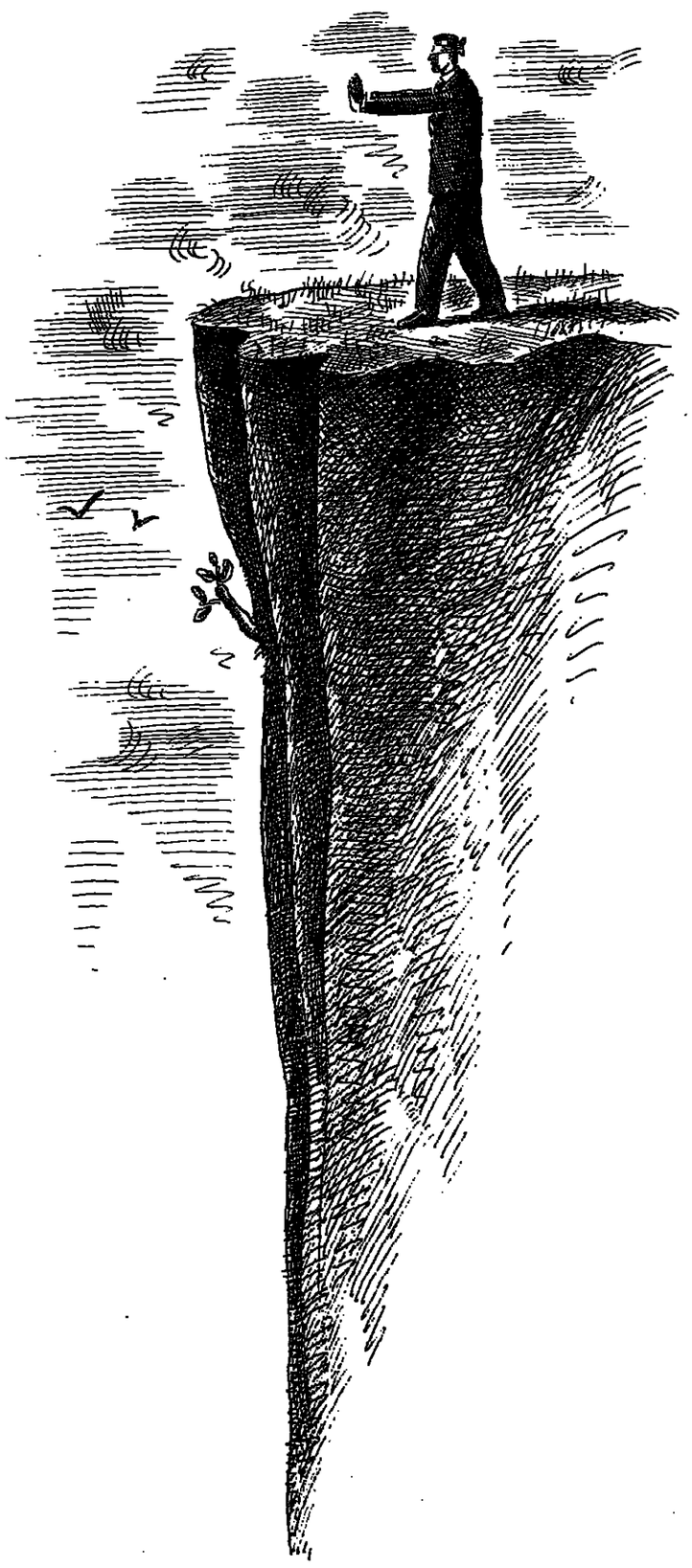
PATIENTS won £41 million in compensation from doctors last year as the cost of claims against them rose 31 per cent on the previous year. With legal costs increasing to £15 million, litigation is now costing the profession £56 million, twice as much as it did five years ago.

The total bill in 1995 was £43 million and in 1994 £37 million. The average growth over the past five years has been 15 per cent per annum, but the number of claims is now rising more steeply, according to the annual report of the Medical Defence Union published today.

Dr Michael Saunders, the chief executive, said all the evidence suggested the adverse trend of litigation against doctors would continue and that the sums awarded by the courts would increase.

Demands for help from the union are also rising sharply. There was a 10 per cent increase in calls to its 24-hour helpline last year, with 20,000 calls processed.

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Drug firm ready to cash in on colds



MEDICAL BRIEFING

AN AVERAGE adult suffers the misery of a common cold three times a year. The sufferer's interest in any potential cure, or treatment to alleviate its symptoms, is matched by that of the pharmaceutical companies. If a company could find the cure for the common cold it would be the source of never-ending riches.

Reports suggest that a new nasal spray, manufactured by Boehringer Ingelheim and undergoing trials, offers the hope of preventing colds in some patients when the source of infection has been a rhino virus, and reducing the symptoms in others. The spray acts by preventing the rhino virus from attaching itself to cells in the nose, therefore either aborting, or lessening, the attack.

In the winter months, children who have recently started school on average catch a common cold once a fortnight. Spread of the cold viruses is either by inhalation of the virus which has been scattered in the atmosphere by coughing, sneezing and nose-blowing, or by hand-to-hand infection, after the infected hand has touched the lips, scratched the nose or rubbed the eyes. The virus induces the well-known symptoms of sneezing, a runny nose, sore throat, husky voice and possibly a cough.

There are certainly more than 95 different rhino viruses, causing 30 or 40 per cent of common colds. The other large group of viruses responsible is the corona virus.

As people age, the exposure to colds they have had gives them more resistance to infection. In old age, by which time they will have been infected by a high proportion of the local viruses, catching a cold is comparatively rare.

However, catching a cold is potentially more dangerous in old age because chest complications become more likely. It is equally important to prevent a cold in groups of patients who could suffer similar problems because their immune systems are compromised by other diseases or the treatments for them. In children, asthma can be induced by a cold.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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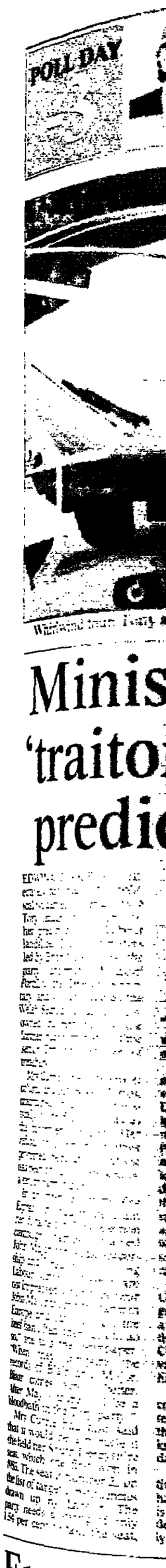
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Clarke's

Kenneth Clarke would have fought a very different Conservative campaign if he had been in charge. It would have been the economy, the economy, the economy — and not the threat from Europe.

This was vividly illustrated on Friday on the main shopping street of Stirling, the highly marginal seat of Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary. There they were, the standard-bearer of the pro-Europeans and the rising hope of the sceptic Right, dressed alike in full campaigning gear of Barbours. Mr Clarke's consistent theme was about creating real jobs and making Britain competitive. Standing alongside him, however, Mr Forsyth told a visitor that the most important issue was Europe.

The determination of many Tory candidates — and ministers — to fight the election on a Eurosceptic platform has made life increasingly uncomfortable for Mr Clarke. He no longer bothers to disguise his annoyance with attempts to

ELECTION 97



-3 Hezza versus Pressa

The Target Marginals



1997 and all that

Page 40 and 41



CHRIS HARRIS

Whirlwind tour: Tony and Cherie Blair arriving at Willmorton College in Derby yesterday in one of a convoy of 11 helicopters that landed at five-minute intervals in scenes reminiscent of *Apocalypse Now*

Ministers disown 'traitor' Currie for predicting defeat

EDWINA CURRIE was effectively banished to the political wilderness yesterday by a Tory leadership enraged by her predictions of a Labour landslide. Cabinet ministers led by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, publicly disowned the remarks of the former health minister. One senior Tory accused her of treachery.

Mrs Currie, one of the most colurful and outspoken Tories, maintained an uncharacteristically low profile yesterday as the controversy raged. Her refusal to comment further prompted speculation that she had been privately rebuked by a senior party figure.

In an interview with *The Express*, she had made plain her distaste for Tory election campaign tactics, blamed John Major for weak leadership and forecast a stunning Labour victory. "People are not impressed when they hear John Major thump the table in Europe and say he'll get the beef ban lifted, then fails to do so," she told the newspaper. "When they compare the records of Blair and Major, Blair comes across better. After May 1 there will be a bloodbath in the Tory party."

Mrs Currie had also said that it would be a miracle if she held her South Derbyshire seat, which she first won in 1983. The seat is number 20 on the list of target constituencies drawn up by Labour. The party needs a swing of only 1.54 per cent to take the seat, which has a notional majority of 1,950.

> One particularly outspoken Tory is now keeping her head down, report **Andrew Pierce and Emma Wilkins**

Her comments struck a raw nerve in the Tory party as various opinion polls showed Labour maintaining a 20 point lead. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, said: "Edwina Currie has always been a loose cannon, firing in all directions and never hitting the target once." Sir Marcus, speaking on Sky Television, appeared to accept that she would lose her seat: "She is seeking to carve out a new career for herself."

Mr Hague took issue on GMTV'S *The Sunday Programme* with her prediction of a Labour majority of more than 100. "I think Edwina Currie is unique in the Conservative Party in the views she has expressed today."

Mr Portillo, told a press conference at Tory headquarters that he did not recongise the situation she described. "I know of no other Tory candidate who shares those views."

A senior source at Conservative Central Office said: "She has gone too far this time. She is out on her own. She has demonstrated that all she really cares about is her own seat. She will not be forgiven for this. This is treachery." One of Mrs Currie's closest political allies said: "It is unforgiveable of her to make comments like this just days before polling day."

Mrs Currie, who said that the Tory tactic of scaremongering was not working because it was not credible, was filmed yesterday commenting on *The Express* to her local newsagent: "I had forgotten it is run by a Labour peer." The newspaper is owned by United News and Media, whose chief executive is Lord Hollick, the socialist millionaire. She remained inside her home in the Derbyshire village of Findern and refused to take calls or to answer the door to reporters.

Her campaign headquarters was deserted and leading members of her local Conservative Association were unavailable for comment. A party worker who declined to be named said: "I understand Mrs Currie's remarks were off the record, but even so it is not the thing to say five days before a general election. People who are trying to get her re-elected are totally demoralised by this."

Some voters in the consituency were dismayed by her remarks. Phil Sargeant, 41, of Swadlincote, said: "She may just be saying what many Tories must believe privately from looking at the polls, but to say it publicly is just astonishing." Sandra West, 56, said: "You'd have thought she would have kept thoughts like that to herself."



Stewart: role model

Labour's tearjerker message

A James Stewart film classic, one of the most sentimental tearjerkers ever made, is the inspiration for Labour's election broadcast tonight on the dangers of a Tory fifth term (Andrew Pierce writes).

Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, made in 1946, is the basis of the party's final broadcast, directed by the Oscar-winning Stephen Frears. The broadcast mirrors the message of the film, in which a depressed James Stewart is persuaded not to commit suicide by a kindly guardian angel.

Labour has enlisted its own guardian angel, alias actor Pete Postlethwaite, to frighten viewers against voting Tory. Mr Postlethwaite, playing a taxi driver who picks up a father and his daughter as they leave a hospital ten minutes after polling stations have closed, sketches the results of a Tory win: a health service which will "barely exist", difficulty in finding a decent school, VAT on food and rising crime. Then "angel" Postlethwaite turns the clock back to enable the father to vote Labour.

Blair selects grammars for attack

Labour leader wants to frighten parents over 11-plus, says **Jill Sherman**

TONY Blair launched the final stage of his election campaign yesterday with an attack on Conservative plans for a grammar school in every town.

He used a speech in London and a rally in Nottingham to return to his favourite theme of education and to underline the inequity of a big expansion of grammars. "Mr Major calls it a policy of selection. I call it a policy of rejection. Selection for the few, rejection for the many," Mr Blair told teachers and education specialists.

The attack on grammar schools is the next phase of Labour's plan to highlight the dangers of a fifth Tory term. Labour strategists want to open up a new flank — on fears that the children of the next generation will be forced into secondary moderns unless can pass grammar school entrance exams.

Mr Blair said that a grammar school in every town meant "that the vast majority will be rejected and unable to go to a first-class school." It was, he insisted: "A return to the 11-plus. It is fatuous. It is absurd. It is dangerous."

Mr Blair also said that because the new grammars would be paid for from existing funds, money would be taken away from secondary moderns to fund for new grammar schools. Mr Blair's criticism of grammar schools marked the strongest attack on the Tories' proposal to expand selection since the beginning of the campaign. Although Labour has made clear that it will not abolish the 161 existing ones, Mr Blair's onslaught yesterday indicates that as Prime Minister he would not tolerate any further expansion.

He does, however, support greater selection within schools including more setting in comprehensive schools. His comments coincided with reports that local activists will try to trigger ballots to close grammar schools.

Mr Blair, who later took his entourage from London to Derby in a flotilla of 11 hired helicopters — including one which turned out to belong to Mohamed Al Fayed — also set his plans for closing down failing schools and giving them a fresh start with a new school on the same site. Other proposals include more rigorous inspections of local educational authorities and new home-school contracts which set out responsibilities both for parents and for schools.

☐Parents with children at preparatory schools will have a say in the fate of grammar schools under Labour plans for local ballots on selection. Peter Kilfoyle, the Shadow Education Minister, disclosed yesterday.

European obsession drowns out Clarke's message on economy

Kenneth Clarke would have fought a very different Conservative campaign if he had been in charge. It would have been the economy, the economy, the economy — and not the threat from Europe.

This was vividly illustrated on Friday on the main shopping street of Stirling, the highly marginal seat of Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary. There they were, the standard-bearer of the pro-Europeans and the rising hope of the sceptic Right, dressed alike in full campaigning gear of Barbours. Mr Clarke's consistent theme was about creating real jobs and making Britain competitive. Standing alongside him, however, Mr Forsyth told a voter that the most important issue was Europe.

The determination of many Tory candidates — and ministers — to fight the election on a Eurosceptic platform has made life increasingly uncomfortable for Mr Clarke. He no longer bothers to disguise his annoyance with attempts to treat Brussels as a threat and to rewrite Government policy during the campaign. He has, throughout, sought to keep open the Government's options since unequivocal campaign statements may make it harder to reach agreement at the Amsterdam summit, while also sustaining the Referendum Party.

The preoccupation with Europe has prevented Mr Clarke from getting across his economic message. Favourable statistics on unemployment and public borrowing went largely unnoticed because of the row over a single currency. The Clarke view is that the Tories should be emphasising what has been done to create non-inflationary growth and falling unemployment. So for the next few days the party ought to be saying repeatedly that the economy is only "safe and secure with the Tories".

But voters have apparently not been persuaded that Labour poses a threat, in part, because these arguments have never been pursued day after day. For instance, Mr Clarke's warnings on Thursday about a July Budget raising taxes were overshadowed within hours by Tory charges of "lying" against Tony Blair.

Mr Clarke disputes the City view that taxes will have to be raised after the election to cool down the economy. He believes the recovery is sustainable; revealingly, he never talks about a "boom" as Tory posters do. Similarly, he disputes the Bank of England's call for an immediate rise in interest rates. If the Tories win, Mr Clarke would like to stay on at the Treasury to show his judgment is right on the economy.

If it was not for Europe, Mr Clarke would be the obvious next Tory leader. He has been a highly successful Chancellor, with vast experience, shrewdness and an ability to reach out to the uncommitted.

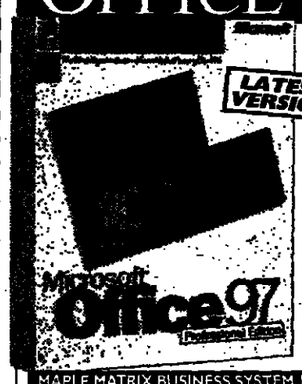
As I saw when he visited the lovely borders town of Selkirk, the home of Sir Walter Scott, Mr Clarke has an ability to motivate, and identify with, party workers. But Tory MPs are obsessed with Europe to the point of self-destruction, and Mr Clarke is now widely seen as merely the leader of a pro-European faction, unlike Michael Heseltine, who shares the Chancellor's views, but has a broader appeal. But the pro-Europeans have not made preparations for a leadership contest that the sceptics have.

Throughout my day with Mr Clarke, I was reminded of my last election day out with a Chancellor, exactly 18 years ago with Denis Healey. Both were popular and respected, though hated by many in their party.

Lord Healey only belatedly recognised the threat from the ultras, which then thwarted his ambitions. Mr Clarke may suffer the same fate, though he is alive to the threat and, win or lose the election, is determined to press the pro-European case.He will not acquiesce in a sceptic takeover of the Tory party.

PETER RIDDELL

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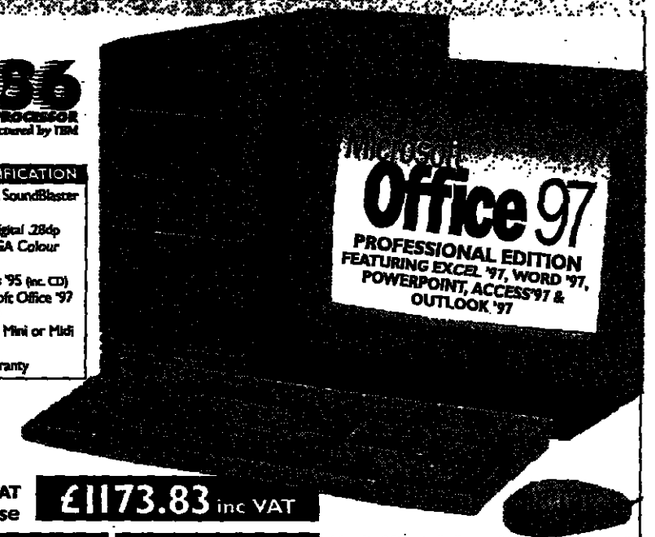
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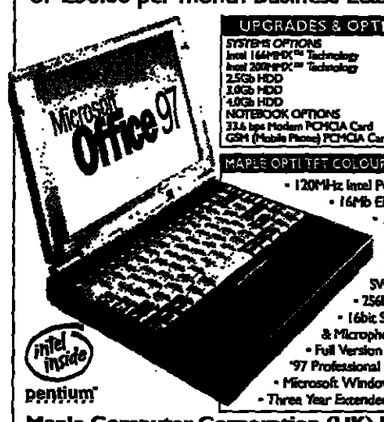
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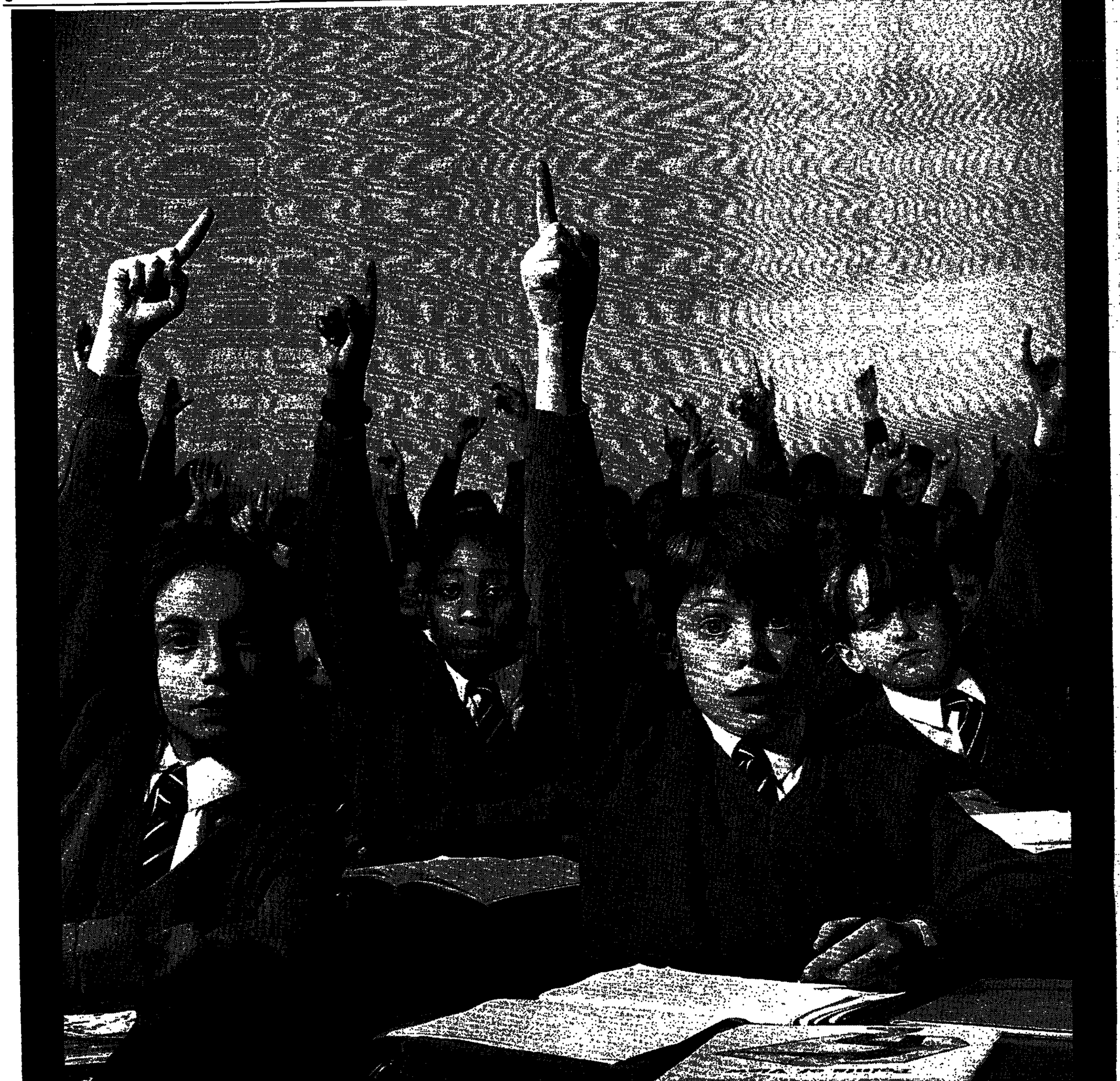
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NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

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ELECTION TRAIL

Party heavyweights fail to deliver knockout punchline



TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

IT WAS good to see John Prescott back in front of the television cameras yesterday. At the beginning of the campaign he was deemed so accident prone, so capable of blurting out his own feelings rather than toe the party line, that he was exiled to a mystery coach tour of the parts of Britain that television people do not reach.

Now, it seems, the deputy leader of the Labour Party has served his time in the televisual wilderness and the Labour propaganda ministry in Millbank Tower has deemed that he may be trusted not to offer any hostages to fortune. So yesterday there was our Humberside hero in the BBC's *On the Record* studio flanked by that other jungle beast Michael Heseltine and a pussycat, Alan Beith.

The American experience of television debates is that the confrontation between the vice-presidential nominees is more entertaining than the main event. So while Tony Blair sat talking to Sir David Frost and John Major underwent a mild interrogation on ITV, their deputies were slanging it out in a glimpse of the old politics that we have yet to see on television this time.

It was what Radio Luxembourg used to call a Battle of the Giants between two men who are loved by their supporters above all for their ability to hurl abuse at their opponents. Mr Heseltine may be smoother and use his hands a lot less than Mr Prescott, but he is every bit as much a street-fighter.

They have other things in common, starting with the belief that they should be the leader of their party. They both direct their remarks straight to the voters, not to their political peers, even less the broadcasters. They both conjure up the passionate politics that used to be played on our screens years ago, before every utterance was tested on a focus group before delivery. While Mr Heseltine combines the showmanship of Quintin Hogg (now Lord Hailsham) with the hauteur of Harold Macmillan, Mr Prescott evokes the spirit of Bessie Braddock as delivered by Les Dawson.

They are both capable of verbal slips such as when Mr Heseltine referred to Michael Meacher as "Malcolm" and Peter Mandelson as "Mendleson", or when Mr Prescott, who enjoys Dickensian syntax and malapropisms, tried to get his tongue around the word "statistics". Even their eyebrows compete for attention — Mr Heseltine's now wild and distracted, much like his eyes, Mr Prescott's a quizzical switchback ride. And until Mr Prescott took his Trappist vow of silence, both men preferred a fast and loose debate peppered with ad libs.

Considering the potential of the event, yesterday's ding-dong was a disappointment, more a dust-up than a punch-up. The wit, what there was of it, was weak. When Mr Prescott asked Mr Heseltine, "how can you say that?" he replied, "Easy. I just have." And when Mr Heseltine taunted Mr Beith with "we all know there isn't going to be a Liberal government", he replied, "There isn't going to be a Conservative Government by the look of it". Not much on paper, perhaps, but the studio audience fell about.

No, the most telling thing was that Hezza — despite his heart attack and his golden locks turning silver by the day — remains on fine form, still the best campaigning politician. It is an attribute that will stand him in good stead when the Tory leadership race begins in earnest on the night of May 1.

And then there is new Prescott, no longer an embarrassment, no longer politically incontinent. He is still capable of old Labour chippiness, as in yesterday's "Let's take *The Guardian*, just to show I'm an intellectual who reads these papers ..." And how far he can keep that Bolshie alter ego in check will be the test of whether he will ultimately be thought of as an Ernie Bevin or a George Brown.

Political armies move to bombard the marginals

Key voters are targeted by mail, phone and video, writes **Andrew Pierce**

IN the closing days of the campaign, all three major parties make no secret of the fact that they will be devoting all their energies to courting voters in about 90 marginal constituencies who will determine the colour of the new government.

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have begun a blitz on the seats which hold the key to victory, with videos, posters, flags, telephone calls, personalised letters and personal visits. A video message from Mr Blair is being sent today to hundreds of first-time voters in 90 marginal seats as the last stage of Labour's Operation Victory swings into action.

The video tactic, borrowed from the United States, marks the beginning of the most crucial period at the end of the longest campaign since the war.

John Major will be at the forefront of the Tory effort with more high-profile walkabouts and speeches on his soapbox. But no one will be able to match the physical effort being expended by Mr Ashdown, who will travel by helicopter from Edinburgh to Land's End, spending 30 minutes in constituencies along the way.

Lord Parkinson of Cleckheaton, the party's campaign manager, said: "We will see probably the most strenuous criss-crossing of the whole of Britain that we have ever seen from a party leader in the immediate run-up to the election."

Labour's video, *Do It*, has been produced by Bob Geldof's Planet 24 company and is designed to appeal to voters aged between 18 to 23. More than 100,000 copies of the film — shot in the key marginal of Gloucester — are being distributed.

Labour's new colour, purple, will be ever present as candidates have been sent 200,000 paper hats, posters and small flags declaring: "Vote now. Britain deserves better."

The party's codeword for the last five days, GOTV — Get out the Vote — has been unveiled by Peter Mandelson, Labour's chief strategist. He has targeted 72,000 voters in the 90 marginal seats who have been identified as "weak Labour", "positive Labour", or "squeezed Liberal Democrats". Any voters in those categories could open their front door to be confronted by Mr Blair, John Prescott and other members of the shadow cabinet. The party's 190 MPs who are defending their seats will be descending on marginals in groups of up to 15 each day.

Mr Blair will virtually abandon central London and the daily televised press conferences, to take his message into the country.

Conservative Central Office, which declined to discuss its strategy, will depend heavily on the 250 professional constituency agents to try to ensure their efforts are targeted on the right seats.

They are being supervised by regional and Conservative Central Office. The marginals have been allocated an experienced MP, financial first aid, and supporters from neighbouring safe seats.

The Conservatives rely on direct mailshots and telephone canvassing to target switch voters. Tailored messages are being sent to first-time voters and waverers from the Prime Minister and the local candidate.

Grassroot supporters in safe seats such as Kensington and Chelsea will call thousands of targeted voters in seats as far away as Stirling. Cut-glass southern accents are deemed not to be a disadvantage in the effort to garner support in the industrial heartlands to the North.

For the Conservatives, the technique has an added advantage for its increasingly immobile army of workers, whose average age is 64. "Their knees simply will not work any more," said one former Tory minister defending a marginal. "They can put in more work on the end of a telephone."

Central Office has sent letters to thousands of shareholders in privatised utilities in the marginals to warn them of the danger of Labour's windfall tax. Married couples in Middle England seats have also been sent details of proposed Tory tax breaks.

The Conservative Party has once again mined the rich seam of two million expatriates who are eligible to vote. At least two marginals, Vale of Glamorgan and Bristol North West, held last time by 19 and 45 votes respectively, are believed to have stayed in Conservative hands at the last election because of the votes of Conservatives Abroad.

The Tory party has left nothing to chance. It even issued proxy forms to crews on the BT Global Challenge race to distribute to would be supporters in South Africa. Labour has struck back but has amassed only about 1,500 would-be supporters, compared with 20,000 potential names for the Tories.

LABOUR TARGETS

■ Major visits ● Blair visits ▲ Ashdown visits

Rank	Constituency	Visits by Party Leader	Swing to gain	Swing achieved	Holding party/result
1	Vale of Glamorgan	●	0.02%	19	Con
2	Hayes & Harlington		0.05%	44	Con
3	Halesowen & Rowley Regis		0.12%	125	Con
4	Rochdale	●▲●	0.12%	128	LibDem
5	Croydon North	●■	0.13%	180	Con
6	Stirling	●■●	0.28%	236	Con
7	Corby		0.31%	342	Con
8	Blackpool South		0.34%	384	Con
9	Luton South	●■●	0.52%	532	Con
10	Edmonton		0.63%	593	Con
11	Bury South	●■	0.67%	728	Con
12	Preseli Pembrokeshire	●■	0.69%	603	Con
13	Dover	●●	0.75%	890	Con
14	Leicestershire North West		0.79%	866	Con
15	Batley & Spen		0.83%	845	Con
16	Plymouth Sutton	●■	1.01%	1060	Con
17	Amber Valley		1.06%	1283	Con
18	Middlesbrough & Cleveland	●■	1.25%	1401	Con
19	Brentford & Isleworth	●●	1.42%	1675	Con
20	Derbyshire South	●●	1.54%	1947	Con
21	Harlow		1.58%	1687	Con
22	Mitcham & Morden	●●	1.70%	1734	Con
23	Castley	●■●	1.83%	1890	Con
24	Eltham		1.92%	1780	Con
25	Inverness East	●▲	1.92%	736	LibDem
26	Norwich North		1.96%	2270	Con
27	City of Chester	●■●	2.06%	2360	Con
28	Chorley		2.08%	2524	Con
29	Basildon	●●	2.20%	2646	Con
30	Ilford South	●■●	2.41%	2530	Con
31	Warrington South		2.45%	2753	Con
32	Exeter		2.46%	3064	Con
33	Vale of Clwyd		2.49%	2177	Con
34	Brighton Pavilion	●●	2.53%	2530	Con
35	Coventry South	●●	2.56%	2904	Con
36	Kingswood		2.59%	3340	Con
37	Stevenage	●●	2.68%	2919	Con
38	Elmet		2.80%	3251	Con
39	Worcester	●■	2.80%	2947	Con
40	Cardiff North	●●▲	3.11%	2969	Con
41	Monmouth	●●	3.15%	3204	Con
42	Tynemouth		3.17%	3529	Con
43	Wolverhampton North East		3.28%	3596	Con
44	Redditch	●●	3.36%	3287	Con
45	Loughborough	●■	3.49%	3492	Con
46	Burton	●■	3.50%	4127	Con
47	Wolverhampton North	●●	3.58%	4067	Con
48	Wavenev		3.63%	4376	Con
49	Basingstoke	●●	3.77%	4453	Con
50	Falmouth & Camborne	●■●▲	3.85%	*	Con
51	Birmingham Hall Green	●■	3.91%	3665	Con
52	Calder Valley		4.00%	4878	Con
53	High Peak		4.02%	4818	Con
54	Bury North	●■	4.04%	4764	Con
55	Bolton West	●■	4.12%	4281	Con
56	Oldham E & Saddleworth	●●▲	4.21%	**	Con
57	Leeds North East		4.29%	4244	Con

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TARGETS

1	Brecon and Radnorshire	●■●▲	0.15%	130	Con
2	Portsmouth S	●▲●	0.23%	242	Con
3	Oldham E & Saddleworth	●●▲●	0.49%	559	Con
4	Hazel Grove	●▲●	0.85%	928	Con
5	Isle of Wight	●▲●	1.15%	1827	Con
6	Conwy	●●	1.18%	995	Con
7	St Ives	●■●▲●	1.44%	1645	Con
8	Ceredigion	●	2.23%	1893	PC
9	Taunton	●▲●	2.60%	3336	Con
10	Devon West & Torridge	●■●▲●	2.71%	3271	Con
11	Southport	●●▲●	2.78%	3063	Con
12	Hereford	●▲●	2.83%	3154	Con
13	Falmouth & Camborne	●■●▲●	2.85%	3267	Con
14	Liverpool Wavertree	●	3.29%	3380	Lab
15	Somerton & Frome	●▲●	3.56%	4251	Con
16	Edinburgh West	●●▲●	4.18%	4291	Con



ANDRÉ CAMARA

Sir James Goldsmith addressing the press while out canvassing in Roehampton, southwest London, yesterday

Fighting to the end and spending their way to triumphant defeat

The Referendum Party does not have to threaten to take seats in order to achieve its principal objective of a referendum on Europe, writes **Mary Ann Sieghart**

SOME £20 million will have been spent, but the rabble has barely been roused. Nationally, the Referendum Party is registering about 4 per cent in the opinion polls.

Sir James Goldsmith blames the BBC, whose (lack of) coverage of the party "makes Albania look like a superb democracy". And, despite a High Court challenge, the party has been given just one election broadcast.

But the Referendum Party does not have to be in the running for seats to unsettle the Tories. It merely has to win enough votes from disaffected Conservatives in marginal constituencies to let in opposition candidates. Sir James had thought that this threat would be enough to persuade John Major to accede to his party's demand for a general referendum on Europe. He still thinks that the Prime Minister might just do so before Thursday. If Mr Major did, Sir James would have to throw in the towel and ask his supporters to return to the Tory fold.

Labour, meanwhile, could be wrong-footed; if Tony Blair matched the Prime Minister's offer, it would look like the most desperate "me-too" gesture of the campaign.

Mr Major does have a record, when cornered, of taking his opponents by surprise. The leadership election he called in 1995 was a classic example. He might calculate that it is too late in the campaign for Kenneth Clarke to make trouble. And the move could allow him to claw back a fair number of seats.

It could, however, also look panicky. And it would not sit comfortably with Mr Major's campaign so far, which seems to have been aimed more at posterity than the present. Had the Prime Minister wanted to be bold on Europe, he could have decided to rule out joining a single currency in the next Parliament. But he chose to stick with "wait-and-see".

So Sir James and his "rabble army" battle on, with candidates fighting very individual campaigns. In Folkestone, the zoo-keeper John Aspinall is standing for the Referendum Party against Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, on an "English nationalist" ticket. Quite what this entails is unclear, but Mr Aspinall delights in dividing his constituents into Angles, Saxons and Jutes. He thinks Mr Howard has a 50:50 chance of losing his seat.

The Referendum Party claims that its areas of relative strength are in the South East, the South West and East Anglia, outside the big conurbations. Sir James's pursuit of Putney is somewhat quixotic; he would probably have done better in Richmond, his own constituency, which is less urban and more affluent. In Putney, such support as he is winning has come equally from Labour and Conservative, which is good news for his Tory opponent, David Mellor.

Sir James's style is far from that of the ordinary politician. On his rare forays to the doorstep he needs little encouragement to launch into a ten-minute soliloquy about how opposition to Chancellor Kohl is growing in Lower Saxony. His speeches are analytical and discursive, with only the occasional lapse into almost biblical language. "You will have great convulsions," he said on Friday night, "if monetary union goes ahead."

At a public meeting in Maidstone, Sir James warned his supporters that this Thursday was their "last chance to save Britain". These remaining few days are also Sir James's last chance to force the Tory party into ceding a referendum. If it did, he and his supporters would have achieved their purpose and could pack up and go. But this would seem a somewhat pathetic end to the billionaire's campaign.

Three senior Tories risk losing seats in Scotland

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SCOTTISH Conservatives are banking on a poor Labour turnout and a surge of support from floating voters to save three senior Cabinet ministers. The admission follows ICM polls in Scotland on Sunday and The Observer yesterday which reveal that Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, Ian Lang, Trade Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, are all heading for defeat.

According to the polls, both Mr Forsyth and Mr Rifkind are popular with their constituents with more than 50 per cent saying they are "good MPs". But in Stirling Mr Forsyth is trailing Labour's Anne McGuire by 21 points, and Mr Rifkind is eight points behind Labour's Lynda Clark in Edinburgh Pentlands. In 1992 Mr Forsyth won by only 703 votes, and even without the swing to Labour that is now a notional 236 because of boundary changes.

Fewer than a third of Mr Lang's constituents think he is a good MP, 47 per cent say he is bad, and the poll puts Alasdair Morgan of the SNP 11 points ahead.

A defeat on such a scale would make it hard to find a credible Scottish Tory shadow cabinet to scrutinise Labour's devolution plans. But yesterday the party was playing down the significance of the poll, claiming it was unclear whether it accounted for undecided voters.

Privately, party sources also said the forecasts would galvanise wavering Conservative support, particulary in Edinburgh Pentlands. Similar polls in 1992 predicted that Rifkind and Forsyth would lose their seats but they managed to hold on.



Michael Forsyth is 21 points behind Labour

ELECTION TRAIL

Conservatives: Michael Howard and Michael Portillo in the Midlands, Gillian Shephard in the West, Kenneth Clarke in the Northwest, Michael Heseltine in the East.

Labour: John Prescott in the Midlands and Northwest, Robin Cook in Scotland, Jacks Straw in Northwest, Clare Short in the Southeast, Jack Cunningham in London, Harriet Harman in Cornwall.

Liberal Democrats: Paddy Ashdown in Southeast and Midlands, Shirley Williams in the East, Emma Nicholson in Oxfordshire.

Television: Labour election broadcast: ITV 6.55pm, C5 7.55pm. BBC1 9.50pm, BBC2 10.30pm. C4 11.15.

Panorama (BBC1 8.30pm) David Dimbleby interviews John Major.

Blair has it all sewn up – on paper

PRESSWATCH

BRIAN MacARTHUR

THE *News of the World* ensured at least one landslide victory for Tony Blair yesterday by following the lead of its sister paper, *The Sun*, and endorsing him as the "Man for the New Millennium".

The *News of the World* has sales of more than 4.5 million (and nearly 12 million readers), and its backing for Blair means that five national Sunday newspapers, with sales of 9.6 million, have backed new Labour, against four, with sales of 5.5 million, which have backed the Tories. Research by MORI shows that seven in ten *News of the World* readers — more than eight million — intend to vote for either Labour or the Liberal Democrats.

The newspapers which have opted for the Tories are *The Mail on Sunday*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Express on Sunday* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. According to MORI, only *The Sunday Times* was "voting" against its readers, more than half of whom intend to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat, although readers of *The Mail on Sunday* are almost evenly split.

Opting for Labour are two of its traditional supporters, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, as well as *The Observer* and the *Independent on Sunday*, both of which also advised readers on where a vote for the Liberal Democrats would help to oust the Tories. There is a big anti-Tory majority among readers of all five Sunday newspapers backing Labour, with 88 per cent of *Observer* readers and 85 per cent of *Independent on Sunday* readers intending to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat.

Several national dailies have still to declare their allegiances, although *The Sun* and *The Mirror* are backing Blair and will almost certainly be joined by *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and *The Express* seem equally certain to endorse the Tories. The most interesting endorsements of the week will be from *The Times* and *Financial Times*, neither of which have yet declared their position.

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Barclays	17.9%	£114.68	£5,504.64	£344.64
NatWest	16.9%	£112.78	£5,413.44	£253.44

A £7,000 Loan

Lender	Typical Example	48 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Paid	Direct Loan Saving
RB Direct	12.3%	£186.66	£8,959.68	
Barclays	17.9%	£200.69	£9,633.12	£673.44
TSB	14.9%	£197.40	£9,475.20	£515.52
NatWest	16.9%	£194.27	£9,324.96	£364.28

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The question of European integration and monetary union divides all the major parties and for many voters



Hasting into battle: led by John Redwood, with Michael Portillo following close behind, the Tory Eurosceptics deliver a mortal blow to John Major, who is flanked by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke

Who the Eurosceptic should back to give Brussels one in the eye

John Bull may want to defend Britain's cherished sovereignty at all costs, but backing fringe parties with little hope of power is a waste of his vote. *Times* writers analyse where his loyalties should lie

EUROSCEPTICS face a difficult choice. Both main party leaders have stolen John Bull's clothes, one has even pinched his dog. Does either deserve his vote? What is the right choice for the sceptical voter, who believes that Europe is the big issue and wants to prevent further erosions of sovereignty?

Voting for one of the fringe parties, such as Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party or the United Kingdom Independence Party, may provide emotional release for sceptics but will not, in itself, help to shape the Parliament and government which will take the important decisions. In Putney, where Sir James is standing, and Reigate, where the former Tory MP Sir George Gardiner is his candidate, they are better choices than any alternative but still marginal to the bigger battle.

However, neither Eurosceptics nor Europhiles can be absolutely confident that Britain's potential prime ministers deserve their trust. John Major has huffed and puffed before only to let the House down, while Tony Blair argues that there are "formidable obstacles" to Britain entering economic and monetary union, but does not produce one that is a matter of personal principle.

The Conservatives are certainly more sceptical. John Major would keep the veto in areas where Tony Blair would surrender it, and he would stay out of the social chapter. Yet there are some Tory candidates who, if elected, would work more energetically than many Labour members to advance integration.

For the voter who considers Europe the decisive issue, there are several clear choices. The near-certainty of a Labour government makes them clearer. Sceptics should first support any Labour candidate who is an opponent of integration. The bigger the awkward squad behind Mr Blair, the less likely he is to pursue a federalist line. If the Tory rival is an explicit sceptic, it may be tempting to back him, but a sceptic tying Tony's hands is worth two in the Tory bush.

Where the opposition candidate's views are unknown, then sceptics should enthusiastically support a Tory candidate who has either explicitly ruled out the single currency or shown himself to be a consistent opponent of integration. In those cases where the Labour candidate is explicitly integrationist, sceptics should also vote Tory. That will be all the easier if the Tory is, as many are, a principled sceptic. In those seats where the Conservative candidate is actively in favour of further integration, then sceptics should vote against him or her, even if the opposition candidate is pro-European. The targeting of Tory Europhiles may seem arbitrary, even perverse, particularly where Liberal Democrats stand to gain. However, the Commons will be just as Europhile whether the Tory or Liberal Democrat candidate in North Dorset wins, but if the Tory loses the Tory party as a whole will become more sceptical.

> "A Labour sceptic tying Tony Blair's hands is worth two in the Tory bush"

For the purposes of this guide, the party best placed to defeat Tory europhiles is identified. It is normally the nearest challenger, but where Labour is in third place and only 3,000 behind the Liberal Democrat, then Labour is preferred. That reflects the advantage that Labour has in the polls. Except to stop a Tory Europhile, no sceptic should vote for a Liberal Democrat other than Nick Harvey, or a nationalist. In Northern Ireland, sceptical voters should support the sitting, or sole, Unionist.

The Times has compiled four lists, of Tory Eurosceptics, Tory Europhiles, Labour Eurosceptics and Labour Europhiles. The lists cannot be exhaustive. Some names will have been omitted, but *The Times* team has made strenuous efforts to ensure that it is accurate. A clearly expressed position on either side of the debate qualified candidates for inclusion, whether through membership of specific organisations such as the European Movement, or statements of belief. All those listed as pro-European go beyond a preference for pragmatic cooperation and have taken up positions in support of a further transfer of powers. Thus, Sir Michael Shersby, who as a Tory MP voted for the Maastricht treaty, is not classified as a Europhile, even though as a backbencher he had the opportunity to rebel, because he has not associated himself with any Europhile body. Margaret Daly, the Conservative candidate in Weston-super-Mare, is included as Europhile, as a supporter of the European Movement, Conservative Group for Europe and Action Centre for Europe.

The waters have, inevitably, been muddied by electoral calculations. The lure of support from the millionaire Paul Sykes and from voters has wrung sceptical words from some Tory candidates for the first time. But some have attacked the single currency with a feather duster. Some claim only to be "not persuaded" of the advantages of a single currency. That should not persuade the voter. A clear and ringing "No" such as that offered by Alan Clark in Kensington is a better guarantee for the sceptic. The list below excludes Tory candidates whose opposition appears opportunistic.

On Labour's side, it has been difficult to identify the true position of candidates because those asked for their view on Europe have referred inquirers to Millbank, the party's communications headquarters.

Evidence has been used to classify some of those who have already served in Parliament but, inevitably, it cannot be comprehensive. In constituencies where there is no candidate with an identifiable position on Europe, no recommendation can be made.

Even in those seats where a recommendation is made, voters may consider other factors important. Although Adrian Rogers is the sceptical choice in Exeter, his outspoken views on homosexuality may be an insuperable barrier to some. Support for Jeremy Corbyn in Islington North will help to maintain a sceptical voice in Labour but defenders of parliamentary government may balk at voting for a candidate sympathetic to Irish republicanism.

Ultimately, each voter must weigh different considerations in the balance, but for John Bull, anxious to make his vote count, the information below may help. He cannot say that his dog did not bark.

THE DIEHARD FORCES OF RESISTANCE

STEFAN ROUSSEAU



Alan Clark with wife Jane: his ringing "No" to the single currency is a good guarantee to the sceptical voter



Against integration: Dame Angela Rumbold, David Heathcoat Amory, Michael Portillo, and Michael Howard

Portillo and Howard lead the fightback

THE following Conservative candidates deserve the support of Eurosceptic voters. They are listed alphabetically by constituency. They have either made a clear and credible statement of opposition to the single currency or otherwise shown themselves consistent opponents of integration.

Aberavon — Peter Harper; **Aldershot** — Gerald Howarth; **Aldridge-Brownhills** — Richard Shepherd; **Alyn and Deeside** — Tim Roberts; **Altrincham and Sale West** — Graham Brady; **Arundel and South Downs** — Howard Flight; **Ayr** — Phil Gallie; **Basildon** — John Baron; **Basingstoke** — Andrew Hunter; **Beckenham** — Piers Merchant; **Beverley and Holderness** — James Cran; **Bexhill and Battle** — Charles Wardle; **Bexleyheath and Crayford** — David Evennett; **Billericay** — Teresa Gorman; **Birmingham Yardley** — Anne Jobson; **Blaby** — Andrew Robathan; **Blackpool South** — Richard Booth; **Bognor Regis and Littlehampton** — Nick Gibb; **Bolton North-East** — Robert Wilson; **Boston and Skegness** — Sir Richard Body; **Brent North** — Sir Rhodes Boyson; **Brent South** — Stewart Jackson; **Brentford and Isleworth** — Nirj Deva; **Brigg and Goole** — Donald Stewart; **Bristol East** — Eddie Vaizey; **Bristol North-West** — Michael Stern; **Bromley and Chislehurst** — Eric Forth; **Bromsgrove** — Julie Kirkbride; **Broxbourne** — Marion Roe; **Buckingham** — John Bercow; **Burton** — Sir Ivan Lawrence; **Bury St Edmunds** — David Ruffley; **Cambridgeshire South** — Andrew Lansley; **Cambridgeshire South-East** — James Paice; **Canterbury** — Julian Brazier; **Ceredigion** — Felix Aubel; **Chingford and Woodford Green** — Iain Duncan Smith; **Chorley** — Den Dover; **Christchurch** — Chris Chope; **Cleethorpes** — Michael Brown; **Clwyd South** — Boris Johnson; **Clwyd West** — Rod Richards; **Colchester** — Stephan Shakespeare; **Colne Valley** — Graham Riddick; **Congelton** — Ann Winterton; **Cornwall North** — Nigel Linacre; **Cornwall South-East** — Warwick Lightfoot; **Coventry North-West** — Paul Bartlett; **Crawley** — Josephine Crabb; **Croydon North** — Ian Martin; **Dartford** — Bob Dunn; **Derby South** — Javed Arain; **Don Valley** — Clare Gledhill; **Dorset West** — Oliver Letwin; **Dover** — David Shaw; **Ealing North** — Harry Greenway; **Easington** — Jason Hollands; **Edinburgh North and Leith** — Ewen Stewart; **Edmonton** — Ian Twinn; **Enfield North** — Mark Field; **Enfield Southgate** — Michael Portillo; **Epsom and Ewell** — Sir Archie Hamilton; **Essex North** — Bernard Jenkin; **Exeter** — Dr Adrian Rogers; **Fareham** — Sir Peter Lloyd; **Finchley and Golders Green** — John Marshall; **Fife Central** — Jacob Rees-Mogg; **Folkestone** — Michael Howard; **Gainsborough** — Edward Leigh; **Gower** — Alun Cairns; **Gravesham** — Jacques Arnold; **Great Yarmouth** — Michael Carttiss; **Harrogate and Knaresborough** — Norman Lamont; **Harwich** — Iain Sproat; **Havant** — David Wilfets; **Hemel Hempstead** — Rob Jones; **Hitchin and Harpenden** — Peter Lilley; **Holborn and St Pancras** — Julian Smith; **Horsham** — Francis Maude; **Houghton and Washington East** — Philip Booth; **Ilford North** — Vivian Bendall; **Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber** — Mary Scanlon; **Isle of Wight** — Andrew Turner; **Islington South and Finsbury** — David Berens; **Islwyn** — Russell Walters; **Jarrow** — Mark Allatt; **Kensington and Chelsea** — Alan Clark; **Leeds Central** — Edward Wild; **Leicester South** — Chris Heaton-Harris; **Leigh** — Ed Young; **Lewisham - East** — Philip Hollobone; **Lichfield** — Michael Fabricant; **Liverpool Wavertree** — Kit Malthouse; **Louth and Horncastle** — Sir Peter Tapsell; **Ludlow** — Christopher Gill; **Luton North** — David Senior; **Macclesfield** — Nicholas Winterton; **Maidstone and the Weald** — Ann Widdecombe; **Maldon and East Chelmsford** — John Whittingdale; **Manchester Central** — Simon Mellwaine; **Manchester Gorton** — Guy Senior; **Mansfield** — Tim Frost; **Milton Keynes South-West** — Barry Legg; **Mitcham and Morden** — Dame Angela Rumbold; **Mole Valley** — Sir Paul Beresford; **Monmouth** — Roger Evans; **New Forest East** — Julian Lewis; **New Forest West** — Desmond Swayne; **Northampton North** — Tony Marlow; **Norwich North** — Robert Kinghorn; **Normanton** — Fiona Bulmer; **Oldham East and Saddleworth** — John Hudson; **Orpington** — John Horam; **Oxford East** — Jonathon Djanogly; **Penrith and the Border** — David Maclean; **Peterborough** — Jackie Foster; **Pontefract and Castleford** — Adrian Flook; **Poplar and Canning Town** — Bene't Steinberg; **Poole** — Robert Syms; **Portsmouth South** — David Martin; **Pudsey** — Peter Bone; **Rayleigh** — Dr Michael Clark; **Reading East** — John Watts; **Reading West** — Nick Bennett; **Regent's Park and Kensington North** — Paul McGuiness; **Ribble Valley** — William Hague; **Rochford and Southend East** — Sir Teddy Taylor; **Rother Valley** — Steven Stanbury; **Rotherham** — Simon Gordon; **Rugby and Kenilworth** — James Pawsey; **Ruislip-Northwood** — John Wilkinson; **Runnymede and Weybridge** — Philip Hammond; **Rutland and Melton** — Alan Duncan; **Salisbury** — Robert Key; **Salford** — Elliot Bishop; **Scarborough and Whitby** — John Sykes; **Scunthorpe** — Martyn Fisher; **Sevenoaks** — Michael Fallon; **Sheffield Central** — Martin Hess; **Sheffield Hillsborough** — David Nuttall; **Shipley** — Sir Marcus Fox; **Shropshire North** — Owen Patterson; **Sittingbourne and Sheppey** — Sir Roger Moate; **South Holland and Deepings** — John Hayes; **South Shields** — Mark Hoban; **Southampton Itchen** — Peter Fleet; **Staffordshire Moorlands** — Dr Andrew Ashworth; **Southend West** — David Amess; **Spelthorne** — David Wilshire; **St Ives** — William Rodgers; **Stafford** — David Cameron; **Staffordshire Moorlands** — Dr Andrew Asworth **Stirling** — Michael Forsyth; **Stoke-on-Trent North** — Christopher Day; **Stone** — Bill Cash; **Stourbridge** — Warren Hawksley; **Stroud** — Roger Knapman; **Suffolk Central and North Ipswich** — Michael Lord; **Sutton and Cheam** — Lady Olga Maitland; **Swindon North** — Guy Opperman; **Tatton** — Neil Hamilton; **Tayside North** — Bill Walker; **Teignbridge** — Patrick Nicholls; **Telford** — Bernard Gentry; **Tewkesbury** — Lawrence Robertson; **Thanet South** — Jonathan Aitken;

Tiverton and Honiton — Angela Browning; **Torbay** — Rupert Allason; **Totnes** — Anthony Steen; **Tunbridge Wells** — Archie Norman; **Twickenham** — Toby Jessel; **Tynemouth** — Martin Callanan; **Tyne Bridge** — Adrian Lee; **Upminster** — Sir Nicholas Bonsor; **Vale of Glamorgan** — Walter Sweeney;

Wansbeck — Paul Green; **Wansdyke** — Mark Prisk; **Warley** — Christopher Pincher; **Waveney** — David Porter; **Wellingborough** — Sir Peter Fry; **Wells** — David Heathcoat-Amory; **Welwyn Hatfield** — David Evans; **Westmorland and Lonsdale** — Tim Collins; **West Bromwich East** — Brian Matsell; **Wigan** — Mark Loveday; **Wiltshire North** — James Gray; **Wokingham** — John Redwood; **Wolverhampton South-West** — Nick Budgen; **Woodspring** — Dr Liam Fox; **Worcestershire West** — Michael Spicer;

The Wrekin — Peter Bruinvels; **Yeovil** — Nicholas Cambrook; **Yorkshire East** — John Townend.

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is an issue that transcends party loyalty. *The Times* offers a guide to like-minded candidates of every hue



Friend or foe: Robin Cook and John Prescott lead the sceptic charge against Tony Blair, who is shielded by Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson. In Opposition, Labour has subdued its historic hostility to Europe

Continental drift opens both parties' fault lines

A free vote on monetary union is far from being a Eurosceptic lifeline

BOTH Britain's main parties are broad churches, but they are built on the treacherous ground where continental plates meet. Although the Tory party's splits on Europe are more visible, prompting Tim Renton, the former Chief Whip, to call the issue his party's "San Andreas Fault", Labour too has its divisions.

The hard decisions necessary in Government, and the fragility of John Major's majority, have ensured greater attention is paid to Tory fault lines. The Tories have grown restive while Labour, hungry for power, has suppressed its old appetite for internal argument.

The Conservatives have become identified with the feuding which was once Labour's curse. The more significant change, however, has been the transformation in the strength of the dominant factions in each party. The most important continuity has been the preservation of an establishment majority in favour of ever closer union. Whatever the election result, the Commons is still on course to produce a broadly Europhile majority.

The Labour and Tory parties have been divided on the merits of European integration since the process started. Harold Macmillan's early overtures to Europe were viewed critically by several members of his Cabinet, and when Edward Heath eventually negotiated entry it was in the teeth of backbench opposition led by Enoch Powell. Mr Heath only secured entry with the help of pro-European Labour MPs who defied the whip.

Those Labour rebels were a significant minority, but a minority nevertheless. In 1962 Hugh Gaitskell, then party leader, committed Labour to oppose entry and the consequent ending of "a thousand years of history".

The shift in attitudes which has seen the Tories take the more sceptical line is a product of changes in the European Union itself. The development of the social dimension and the growing transfer of powers to a supra-national bureaucracy has been uncongenial to Conservatives in Government and progressively more attractive to a Labour party in Opposition.

But the colour of the Government can be less important than the numbers on the backbenches. In order to finesse his own party, Mr Major has promised a public referendum and a parliamentary free vote on a single currency. It has been presented as a victory for Tory sceptics. They should not cheer too soon. When in a similar bind in the Seventies, Harold Wilson bowed to his sceptics by letting them off the leash. He called a referendum in 1974 and allowed his MPs and ministers the freedom to campaign on either side. Although some of his most talented lieutenants fought vigorously for a "No" vote, the weight of establishment pressure, with the Tory Opposition heavily in favour, helped secure a "Yes".

A free vote in the next Parliament might appear to allow Tory sceptics their head, but it would also allow Conservative Europhiles the freedom to support a single currency. Any Conservative leader determined to oppose it as effectively as possible would find that his backbench federalists had a licence to fraternise. He would need a united party to prevent the pound's abolition: Europhiles, given the freedom to vote as they wish, would make his task harder.

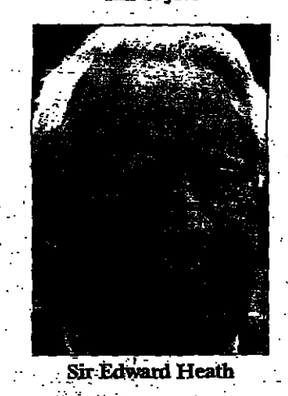
ENTHUSIASTS WHO EMBRACE THE UNION



Peter Temple-Morris



Ian Taylor



Sir Edward Heath



Kenneth Clarke



Jane Ellison, the Conservative candidate for Barnsley East and Mexborough

Tory Europhiles to watch out for

The following is a list of Tory Europhiles whom sceptical voters should not support. Those whom Labour is best placed to prevent entering Parliament are:

Barnsley East and Mexborough — Jane Ellison; **Banbury** — Tony Baldry; **Battersea** — John Bowis; **Bedfordshire South-West** — Sir David Madel; **Birmingham Edgbaston** — Andrew Marshall; **Bournemouth W** — John Butterfill; **Bolton W** — Tom Sackville; **Broxtowe** — Jim Lester; **Brighton Kemptown** — Sir Andrew Bowden; **Bury N** — Alistair Burt; **Bury S** — David Sumberg; **Cambridge** — David Platt; **Cardiff W** — Simon Hoare; **Daventry** — Tim Boswell; **Derbyshire S** — Edwina Currie; **Dulwich & W Norwood** — Roger Gough; **Elmet** — Spencer Batiste; **Esher & Walton** — Ian Taylor; **Falmouth & Camborne** — Sebastian Coe; **Faversham & Mid-Kent** — Andrew Rowe; **Gillingham** — James Couchman; **Grantham & Stamford** — Quentin Davies; **Hampstead & Highgate** — Elizabeth Gibson; **Harlow** — Jerry Hayes; **Harrow E** — Hugh Dykes; **Harrow W** — Robert Hughes; **Hornchurch** — Robin Squire; **Hove** — Robert Guy; **Lancaster & Wyre** — Keith Mans; **Leeds NW** — Keith Hampson; **Leicestershire NW** — Robert Goodwill; **Luton S** — Sir Graham Bright; **Milton Keynes NE** — Peter Butler; **Old Bexley and Sidcup** — Sir Edward Heath; **Preseli Pembrokeshire** — Robert Buckland; **Redditch** — Anthea McIntyre; **Ribble S** — Robert Atkins; **Rushcliffe** — Kenneth Clarke; **St Albans** — David Rutley; **Staffordshire S** — Sir Patrick Cormack; **Stockton S** — Tim Devlin; **Suffolk Coastal** — John Gummer; **Wantage** — Robert Jackson; **Wirral W** — David Hunt; **Wolverhampton NE** — David Harvey; **Wycombe** — Ray Whitney.

Those whom the Liberal Democrats are best placed to beat:

Ashford — Damian Green; **Brecon & Radnorshire** — Jonathan Evans; **Bournemouth E** — David Atkinson; **Brentwood & Ongar** — Eric Pickles; **Cambridgeshire NE** — Malcolm Moss; **Carshalton & Wallington** — Nigel Forman; **Devizes** — Michael Ancram; **Devon E** — Sir Peter Emery; **Dorset N** — Robert Walter; **Esher & Walton** — Ian Taylor; **Hampshire E** — Michael Mates; **Harborough** — Edward Garnier; **Hastings & Rye** — Jacqui Lait; **Henley** — Michael Heseltine; **Leominster** — Peter Temple-Morris; **Lewes** — Tim Rathbone; **Northavon** — Sir John Cope; **Oxford W & Abingdon** — Laurence Harris; **Saffron Walden** — Sir Alan Haselhurst; **Skipton & Ripon** — David Curry; **Somerton & Frome** — Mark Robinson; **Surrey SW** — Virginia Bottomley; **Vale of York** — Anne McIntosh; **Wantage** — Robert Jackson; **Weston-super-Mare** — Margaret Daly; **Mid-Worcestershire** — Peter Luff; **Worthing W** — Peter Bottomley.

Plaid Cymru is best placed to beat: **Meirionnydd Nant Conwy** — Jeremy Quin.

Why John Bull backs Benn and Skinner

FOR

The following are the Labour candidates sceptics should support. They are at least a force for open-mindedness within the party. Those fighting Tory Europhile opponents have a stronger claim on sceptic votes. Where the Tory is a pronounced sceptic that is noted.

Barnsley West and Penistone — Michael Clapham; **Birmingham Erdington** — Robin Corbett; **Birmingham Hodge Hill** — Terry Davis (Tory candidate Edward Grant is europhile); **Blackburn** — Jack Straw; **Blaenau Gwent** — Llewellyn Smith; **Blaydon** — John McWilliam; **Blyth Valley** — Ronnie Campbell; **Bolsover** — Dennis Skinner (Tory candidate Richard Harwood is europhile); **Bradford South** — Gerry Sutcliffe; **Brent East** — Ken Livingstone (but Tory candidate Mark Francois is also a sceptic); **Chesterfield** — Tony Benn; **Clydesdale** — Jimmy Hood; **Crewe and Nantwich** — Gwyneth Dunwoody; **Derbyshire North-East** — Harry Barnes; **Durham City** — Gerry Steinberg (Tory candidate Richard Chalk is europhile); **Ealing Southall** — Piara Khabra; **Erith and Thamesmead** — John Austin-Walker; **Falkirk East** — Michael Connarty; **Falkirk West** — Dennis Canavan; **Glasgow Pollok** — Ian Davidson; **Glasgow Baillieston** — James Wray; **Great Grimsby** — Austin Mitchell (Tory opponent Dean Godson is also sceptic); **Hackney North and Stoke Newington** — Diane Abbot; **Halifax** — Alice Mahon; **Hull East** — John Prescott; **Ipswich** — Jamie Cann (Tory candidate Stephen Castle is Europhile); **Islington North** — Jeremy Corbyn; **Keighley** — Ann Cryer; **Kingswood** — Roger Berry; **Leyton and Wanstead** — Harry Cohen (Tory candidate Robert Vaudry is europhile); **Livingston** — Robin Cook; **Llanelli** — Denzil Davies; **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney** — Ted Rowlands; **Neath** — Peter Hain; **Nottingham South** — Alan Simpson; **Ogmore** — Sir Ray Powell; **Oldham West and Royton** — Michael Meacher (Tory candidate Jonathon Lord is also sceptic); **Paisley North** — Irene Adams; **Pendle** — Gordon Prentice; **Preston** — Audrey Wise (Tory candidate Paul Gray is also sceptic); **Sheffield Brightside** — David Blunkett; **Sheffield Heeley** — Bill Michie; **Sunderland North** — Bill Etherington; **Tottenham** — Bernie Grant; **Vauxhall** — Kate Hoey (Tory candidate Richard Bacon is europhile); **Worsley** — Terry Lewis (Tory candidate Damian Garrido is europhile). There is one Lib-Dem whom sceptics should support: **North Devon** — Nick Harvey

Tont Benn

Kate Hoey

Peter Mandelson

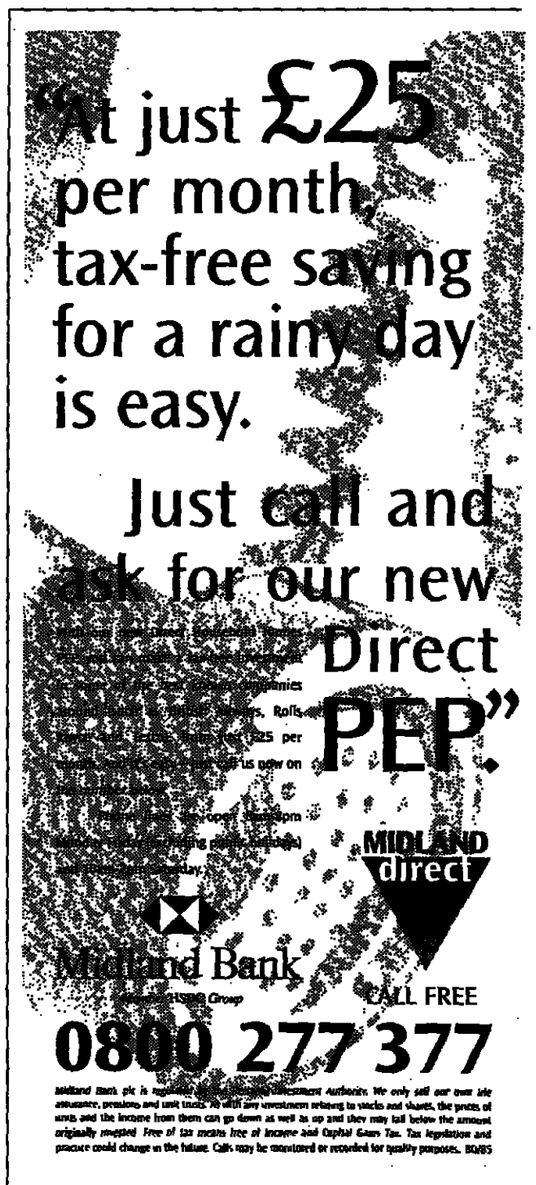


Joyce Quin

AGAINST

The following are Labour candidates who are Europhiles. Sceptics should vote Tory to prevent their election. If the Conservative Party's candidate is a pronounced Eurosceptic, that is noted.

Ashfield — Geoff Hoon; **Barking** — Margaret Hodge; **Barrow-in-Furness** — John Hutton (Tory candidate Richard Hunt is a sceptic); **Bassetlaw** — Joe Ashton; **Bridgend** — Win Griffiths; **Cannock Chase** — Tony Wright; **Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley** — George Foulkes; **Clydebank and Milngavie** — Tony Worthington; **Cynon Valley** — Ann Clwyd; **Dunfermline East** — Gordon Brown (Tory candidate Ian Mitchell is a sceptic); **Dunfermline West** — Rachel Squire; **Durham North** — Giles Radice; **East Ham** — Stephen Timms (Tory candidate Angie Bray is a sceptic); **East Lothian** — John Home Robertson (Tory candidate Murdo Fraser is a sceptic); **Gateshead East and Washington West** — Joyce Quin; **Glasgow Cathcart** — John Maxton; **Greenwich and Woolwich** — Nick Raynsford; **Hackney South and Shoreditch** — Brian Sedgemore (Tory candidate Chris O'Leary is a sceptic); **Hamilton South** — George Robertson; **Hartlepool** — Peter Mandelson (Tory candidate Michael Horsley is a sceptic); **Huddersfield** — Barry Sheerman; **Hull North** — Kevin McNamara; **Ilford South** — Michael Gapes; **Knowsley South** — Eddie O'Hara; **Lancashire West** — Colin Pickthall; **Leicester East** — Keith Vaz; **Middlesbrough** — Stuart Bell; **Morley and Rothwell** — John Gunnell; **Newport West** — Paul Flynn (Tory candidate Peter Clarke is a sceptic); **Ochil** — Martin O'Neill (Tory candidate Alan Hogarth is a sceptic); **Rotherham** — Denis MacShane (Tory candidate Simon Gordon is a sceptic); **Sheffield Attercliffe** — Clive Betts (Tory candidate Brendan Doyle is a sceptic); **Sherwood** — Paddy Tipping; **Stoke-on-Trent Central** — Mark Fisher (Tory candidate Neil Jones is a sceptic); **Strathkelvin and Bearsden** — Sam Galbraith; **Streatham** — Keith Hill; **Swansea East** — Donald Anderson; **Thurrock** — Andrew Mackinlay (Tory candidate Andrew Rossindell is a sceptic); **Tooting** — Tom Cox (Tory candidate James Hutchings is a sceptic); **Western Isles** — Calum MacDonald; **West Ham** — Tony Banks (Tory candidate Mark McGregor is a sceptic); **Wolverhampton South-East** — Dennis Turner; **Workington** — Dale Campbell-Savours (Tory candidate Robert Blunden is a sceptic); **Wrexham** — Dr John Marek; **York** — Hugh Bayley.



Mugabe wife and aides 'got millions' in housing fraud

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE'S wife Grace, 32, and dozens of members of his administration illegally borrowed millions of dollars from a housing finance scheme set up by a United States aid programme meant to benefit the urban poor, evidence in a court here has disclosed.

Documents before the High Court name the new Mrs Mugabe, the President's sister Bridget, two other members of his extended family, Stan Mudenge, the Foreign Minister, and Augustine Chihuri, the police commissioner, as having been granted loans for lavish homes from a guarantee fund meant for people on the breadline, earning $Zim1,200 (£67) a month. They also name Elleck Mashingaidze, the recently retired secret police chief, Bornwell Chakaodza, the director of information, a high court judge, deputy ministers, MPs and senior officials.

Last night, the President's office had no comment.

"He came with a mission and a vision for the poor," the state-controlled press reported last year of Paul Enders, of the US Agency for International Development, who helped to establish the scheme.

Documents before Judge George Smith show that Mrs Mugabe was lent $Zim1.9 million towards the $Zim6 million cost of a 30-room double-storey mansion being built for her and her three children in Harare's most exclusive suburb.

The revelations emerged from a civil suit brought by a privately employed lawyer who was able to borrow money from the National Housing Guarantee Fund and sued the Housing Ministry after it stopped him from occupying the house because his payments were in arrears. Judge Smith reserved judgment indefinitely. Paul Kodzwa, the former Permanent Secretary to the Housing Ministry, admitted that the fund had been illegally used. Up to $Zim90 million may never be recovered and housing projects have been set back.

The evidence has given the surest indication yet of the pervasive corruption among what has become known as "the Mugabe royal family" and the senior ranks of his former Marxist-leaning Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) party as it ardently champions "market forces" and measures for black economic empowerment.

The disclosures coincided with a letter from the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference, condemning the rampant greed and sleaze that have come to characterise Zimbabwean society. It said that the Government had failed to reach its goals of an egalitarian society and the equitable distribution of wealth and land.

President Mugabe, now in his seventeenth year of almost absolute rule in a de facto one-party state, appears to be in danger of being overwhelmed by the corruption in his administration.

He is under fire over allegations in the past month that top party officials — including his new brother-in-law, Reward Marufu — lied about non-existent guerrilla war injuries to be paid millions of dollars in compensation from the Government, and the rigged award of a licence for a lucrative cellular telephone system that went to a company that included Mr Mugabe's nephew, Leo Mugabe, and the husband and cousin of Joyce Mujuru, the Information Minister, who issued the licence.



Mrs Mandela: won in spite of doubts about her leadership

Winnie Mandela retains ANC post

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela easily won re-election as president of the African National Congress Women's League, officials said yesterday.

In spite of speculation that President Mandela's former wife would be voted out because of her style of leadership, she beat Thandi Modise, her main opponent and deputy, by 656 votes to 114 at a meeting of 1,000 delegates at Rustenburg, North West Province, on Saturday. (Reuter)



DUSTIN SHUM / REUTER

Hong Qiaoling with her six-month-old baby Fangyian after spending 100 days in a glass cage with 38,000 snakes

Family 'made to stay with snakes'

FROM REUTER IN HONG KONG

AN AMUSEMENT park in China where six members of a "snake clan", including two children, were locked in a glass cage with thousands of poisonous snakes — to break a record that is not recognised — was denounced yesterday by human rights activists.

The six had been bitten repeatedly but were not allowed to leave the cage, the *Sunday Morning Post* reported from the southern Chinese city of Panyu. A spokesman for the Flying Dragon World Park said the "snake people" had agreed to live with the reptiles for 100 days — ending yesterday. The newspaper also quoted a spokeswoman for the London-based *Guinness Book of World Records* as saying that the stunt would not be accepted for publication because the marathon record category had been deleted.

Ho Hei-Wah, chairman of the Hong Kong Human Rights Commission, urged tourists to boycott the park.

Opposition chief says Cambodia faces civil war

BY DAVID WATTS

CAMBODIA is on the verge of civil war, and unless foreign donors begin to link further aid to good governance the country is in danger of becoming an international beggar.

External aid of more than $500 million (£308 million) a year — including $7 million in direct British aid apart from Britain's contributions through the United Nations — only serves to cover the country's deficit, says Sam Rainsy, leader of the opposition Khmer National Party.

Mr Rainsy, a former Finance Minister, paints a grim picture of a country fast regressing to its authoritarian Communist past under the influence of corruption and anti-democratic violence. Aid, he says, obviates the need for Phnom Penh to govern properly.

Mr Rainsy, who has survived one grenade attack this year, warned Britain that there were serious threats to next year's elections, with Hun Sen, the joint Prime Minister, determined to "seize absolute power by any means", since he knows he has little chance of retaining even a share of power after the poll.

"Cambodia has the largest per capita international assistance in the world, but even so the country is getting poorer and poorer," he told *The Times* in an interview in London. "It's just like a tank with a hole in it. You keep putting water in, but the water level does not rise. You have to block the hole."

Western aid money, he says, is being paid because "that way everybody can relax. They think with money they can buy back their bad conscience on Cambodia".

As in the Lon Nol era of "ghost soldiers" in the 1970s, the military and military procurement are the focus of corruption on an epic scale.

If the West's generosity is doing Cambodia no favours, then neither are Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, which tell Phnom Penh not to worry about democracy and human rights while the economy is developing, — then take advantage of Cambodia's lax laws and corruption to exploit its resources.

The grenade attack last month on a KNP rally was symptomatic of Hun Sen's determination to follow his own maxim: "When we don't have power we must seize it; when we have power we must keep it; power is something which cannot be shared."

Mr Rainsy is convinced that it was just the first chapter in an effort to create an atmosphere in which it will be impossible to hold elections. If Cambodia gets a reprieve and is able to conduct free and fair elections, Mr Rainsy has a vision of it being the key to a "reverse domino effect" in which democracy spreads inexorably to the last Communist states in the world.



Koala: huge appetite for food and mating

Koalas to have 'Pill' implant

Sydney: A colony of koalas, a species under serious threat of extinction according to wildlife experts, is to be given birth control hormones (Roger Maynard writes).

In an experiment in the Australian state of Victoria aimed at stemming regional population explosions, scientists have begun implanting small silicone tubes beneath the skin of 100 koalas which live on a reserve at Warrnambool, near Melbourne. The tubes contain a hormone which will act as a contraceptive over a five-year period.

Koalas have a high rate of reproduction. As a result, colonies often destroy their habitat through overeating. It takes the leaves from 1,000 eucalyptus trees to provide a year's food for one koala.

Last year the South Australian state government rejected a plan to shoot koalas to keep down the local population after activists protested.

Hunt for killers of Israeli women

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

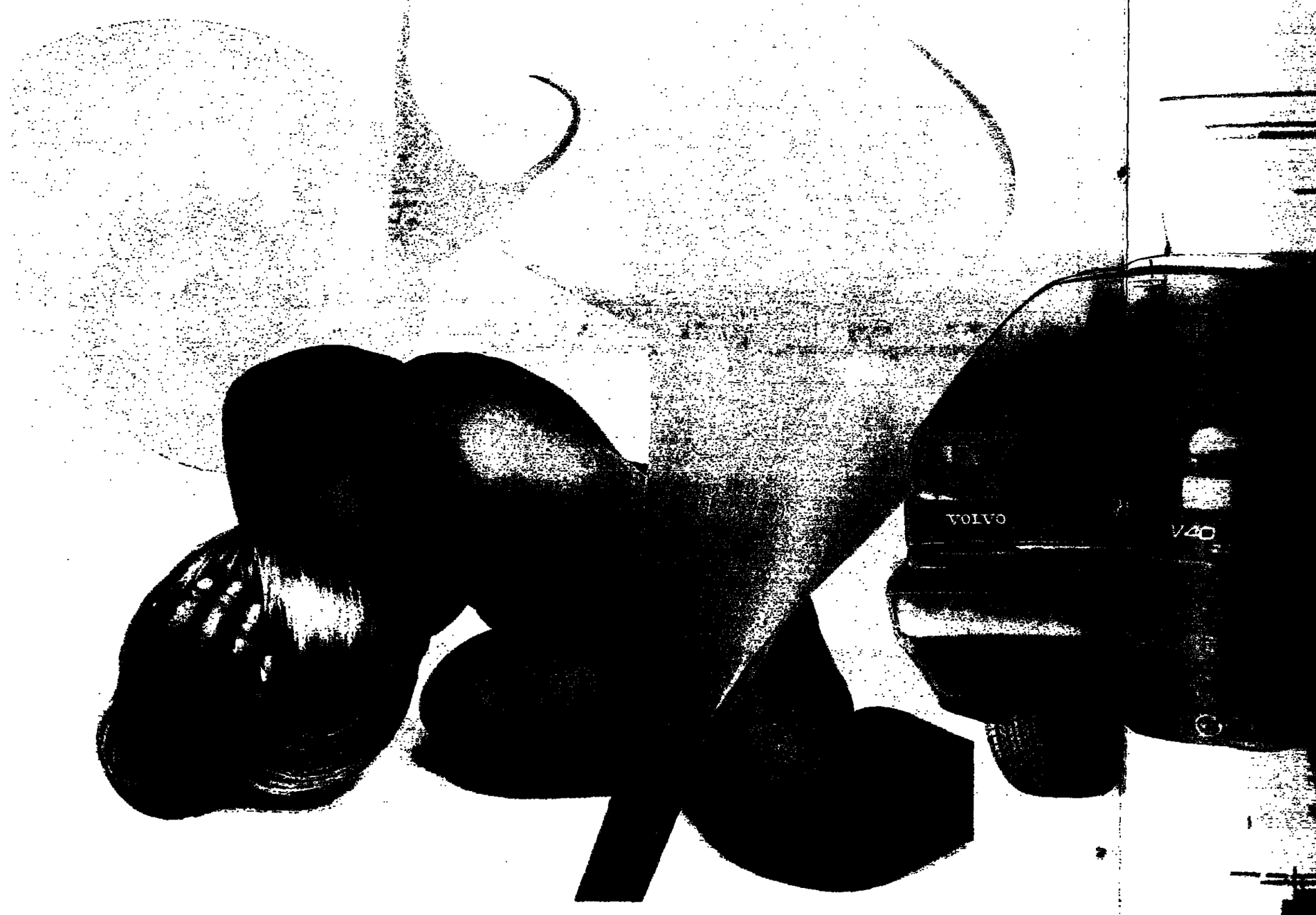
ISRAELI and Palestinian security forces are working together to find the killers of two young Jewish women in the West Bank.

Soldiers, police and volunteers yesterday searched the hills of the Judean desert for clues to the murders of the women, both 23. Their bodies, with multiple stab wounds, were found in the area known as Wadi Kelt, a popular hiking trail near Jericho.

After a post-mortem examination showed they had not been raped, Israeli police were assuming that the murders were carried out by Palestinian extremists. One of the victims, Liat Kastiel, was buried yesterday in her home town of Holon. The other Hagit Zavitzky will be buried tomorrow.

According to one report, the women's throats had been slashed and their bodies dragged down a hill and thrown into the Wadi, a rocky water course.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, expressed shock and hoped that, with the help of the Palestinian police, the killers would be caught. Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, also condemned the killings, calling them "bestial and a disgrace".



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Kabila sets UN deadline to rescue Hutu refugees

The leader of Zaire's rebels is challenging United Nations claims that his forces are bent on the extermination of fleeing Hutus
James Bone and Sam Kiley report

LAURENT KABILA, Zaire's rebel leader, last night gave the United Nations 60 days to repatriate all Hutu refugees in the country "or we will do it ourselves". Speaking after talks with UN and European Union officials he demanded that the airlift begin on Thursday.

The rebel leader said he was seeking a personal apology from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, for accusing his troops of deliberately allowing thousands of refugees to die. He claimed his forces knew the whereabouts of more than 50,000 people who fled their makeshift camps south of Kisangani last week to escape attacks from local villagers.

As Mr Kabila spoke, UN aid agency officials overflying eastern Zaire reported that they had spotted several hundred people, probably Hutu refugees, gathered 25 miles south of Kisangani.

In a last-ditch attempt to head off a battle for Kinshasa, the capital, Bill Richardson, Washington's Ambassador to the United Nations, a diplomatic trouble-shooter, is to travel to Zaire to arrange peace talks between President Mobutu and Mr Kabila. A former Congressman from New Mexico who has undertaken sensitive diplomatic missions to Haiti, Burma, Sudan, Iraq and North Korea, Mr Richardson was dispatched by President Clinton at the weekend in an effort to end the civil war that has raged since last October.

Mr Kabila's ultimatum to the UN came after aid organisations and the UN had accused the rebels of attempting a slow extermination of the Rwandan Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire.

There has been increasing hysteria concerning the welfare of up to 100,000 Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire, in which aid groups and the UN have criticised rebel forces of organising massacres of Hutus. The rebels, until recently seen as the "good guys" in the recent history of the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, are coming under increasing international pressure to explain why they have refused aid workers access to the refugees.

At least 55,000 Hutu refugees vanished into the rainforest south of Kisangani, Zaire's third largest city, last week, jeopardising plans to fly them home to Rwanda. The flight from the temporary refugee camps appears to have been sparked by attacks on them by local Zairean peasants who hate the Hutus because extremists among the refugees have killed large numbers of ordinary Zairean farmers in the region.

The delay in the repatriation flights organised by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was worsened by reports that members of the extremist Hutu militia, the *Interahamwe*, were forcing civilians to leave muster points and flee into the jungle rather than be sent home in Rwanda, where members of the militia are likely to be prosecuted for their part in the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

Many, if not most, of the Hutu refugees now trapped in eastern Zaire are women and children who had only a passive part in committing the genocide. The UN and other groups have gone out of their way to criticise the rebels for denying access to the Hutus. But at the same time they have accused the rebels of committing massacres with the evidence only of alleged Hutu survivors.

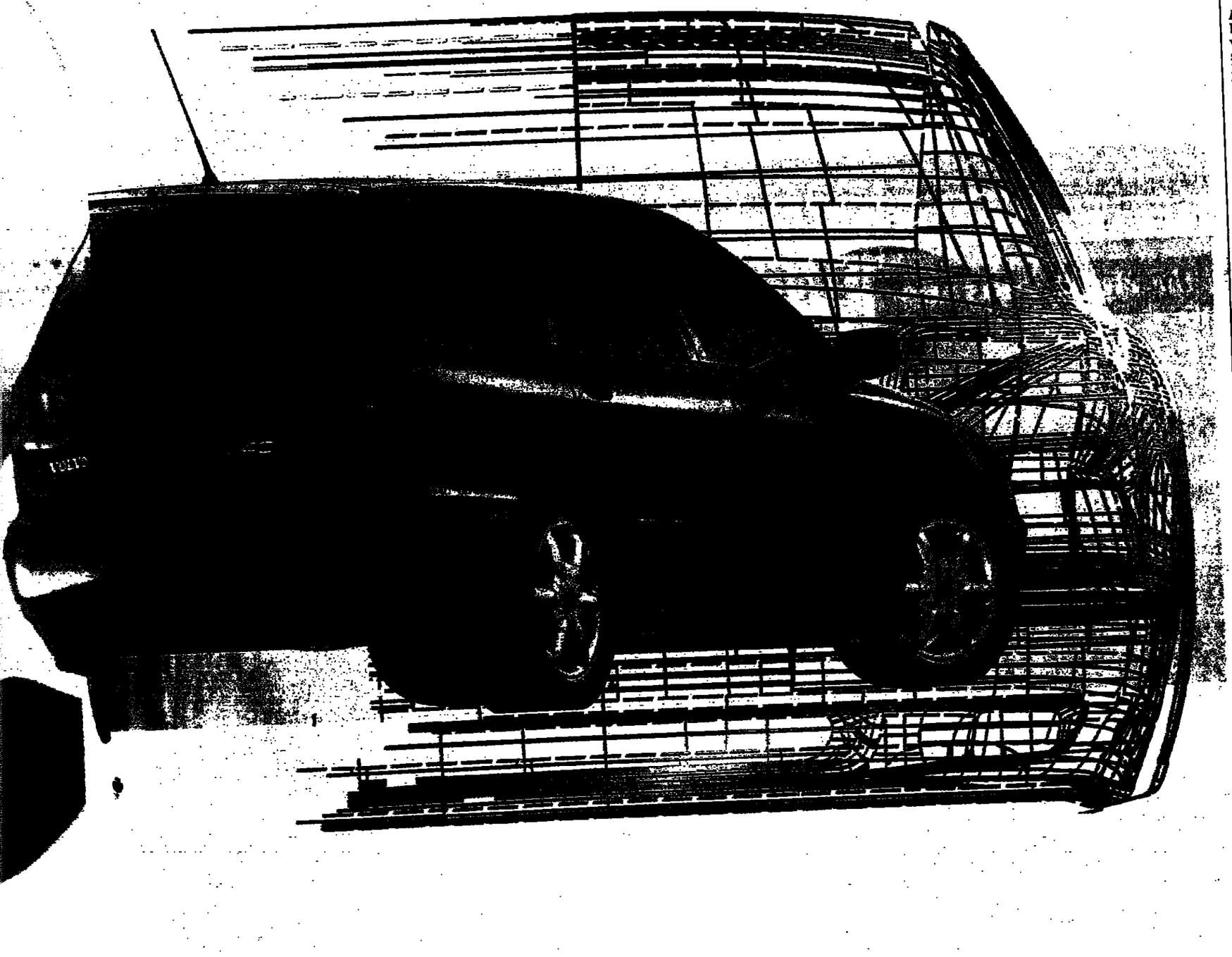
In Kinshasa yesterday, a mere 2,000 supporters of President Mobutu turned out for a political rally by the party he founded. "No to weapons, yes to elections," one banner proclaimed. "Hold tight Marshal, we support you," read a small flag. The embattled President did not appear.

HOWARD BURDITT / REUTER



A supporter of President Mobutu hands a party flag to a government soldier at a Kinshasa rally yesterday

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Kennedy son faces 'teenage sex' row

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SEXUAL antics, which have plagued three generations of Kennedys, yesterday added a new chapter when Michael Kennedy, son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, was alleged to have slept with his children's teenage babysitter.

As a result of reports in the *Boston Globe* that he had begun an affair with the woman five years ago when she was 14, prosecutors in Massachusetts have begun an investigation to discover if Mr Kennedy, 39, had violated statutory rape laws.

The teenager and her parents, Paul and June Verrochi, once close friends of Mr Kennedy, have filed no criminal complaint, but the Massachusetts police said they were working with the district attorney's sexual assault unit to discover whether any crime had been committed.

Unnamed neighbours and friends had told the newspaper that Mr Kennedy had pursued the relationship even after Victoria, his wife of 16 years, caught the couple in bed at their home in the seaside hamlet of Cohasset.

Mrs Kennedy reportedly demanded that her husband enter a rehabilitation programme for alcoholics, but he continued to see the Verrochi girl and is reported to have stalked her before the teenager, now a student at Boston University, left him.

Last week Mr Kennedy announced that he and his wife were separating "amicably". Thomas Dwyer, his lawyer, said: "Because this matter is now under legal review, we will have no comment at this time." Mr Kennedy ran the 1994 Senate campaign for his uncle, Senator Edward Kennedy, and had considered running for Congress.



Michael Kennedy: rape inquiry over babysitter

Thatcher dedicates bridge

Hong Kong: The colony celebrated in style when Baroness Thatcher opened a 1.3-mile suspension bridge to the new airport here yesterday. Tens of thousands of people flocked to witness one of the last big British events before the return to Chinese rule at midnight on June 30. One notable absentee was the future leader, Tung Chee-hwa. Lady Thatcher, who signed the 1984 treaty governing the handover, called the bridge "an inspiring entrance to this modern city". *(Reuter)*

Softer on drugs

Paris: Lionel Jospin, the opposition Socialist leader, who has admitted to smoking hashish twice in his life, told a television interviewer that he wanted to decriminalise use of the drug if his party emerged victorious from two-stage French parliamentary elections on May 25 and June 1. "Legalising sounds like justifying; penalising is absurd. I think we have to find a line somewhere between the two," he said. *(Reuter)*

Golan 'mistake'

Jerusalem: In a secret interview he gave 20 years ago and published yesterday, Moshe Dayan, the late former Israeli Defence Minister, admitted he should not have occupied the Golan Heights in Syria in 1967. "I made a mistake in allowing the conquest ... as Defence Minister I should have stopped it because the Syrians were not threatening us at the time," he said. *(AFP)*

Papal vision

Prague: The Pope celebrated Mass with more than 100,000 people here to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the martyrdom of the missionary St Adalbert and told Czechs that their long Christian tradition was the guarantee of their future. "Your Christian history is not over ... your saints are alive," he said. *(Reuter)*

Canadian poll

Ottawa: Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, who is ahead in opinion polls, is calling a general election for June 2, which is 17 months early, according to a statement issued shortly before he was to have a meeting with the Governor-General. *(Reuter)*

US crusade launched to combat youth crime

Washington: President Clinton and General Colin Powell, the popular Gulf War veteran, entered a political battle for the heart of their country yesterday as they launched a new volunteer army to keep young Americans off the streets (Tom Rhodes writes).

Ostensibly a non-partisan event, the President's Summit for America's Future opened in Philadelphia thick with political symbolism. The event was intended as a "wake-up" call to volunteers throughout the country. General Powell stepped on to the podium to inaugurate what he described as a crusade to bring back the American Dream. He said: "Black and white are coming together because we care, because we are a compassionate nation."

Mr Clinton announced a series of proposals to provide help for children. He has asked for $2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) for a programme entitled America Reads with which he hopes to improve standards of education. "We are still losing too many kids to crime and drugs," he said.

'Herr Clean' stays spotless as Bonn makes its marks with backhanders

INSIDE



Roger Boyes

GERMANY

Corruption scandals, as old Eastern Europe hands will testify, are part of the pantomime of power. Few leaders can be ousted without some controlled exposure of bribery, nepotism or abuse of power.

Sleaze is everywhere, but it gains political edge when there is a sense of *fin de régime*. Brezhnev and Chernenko's men were discredited in this way and even Martin Bell's current campaign in Tatton carries some familiar echoes: a political class is being reshuffled, a leader is stumbling, the hunt is on for material that blackens outgoing politicians and lends legitimacy to the new team.

Germany is a mysterious exception to the rule. Over the past 15 years it has developed into a deeply corrupt state, yet the position of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who has ruled over the whole period, has barely been dented.

In the league table formulated by the Berlin-based group, Transparency International, Germany does quite well — it is the thirteenth most virtuous country (just behind Britain) out of 54. New Zealand is cleanest, Nigeria the most corrupt. But the table does not score company-to-company corruption and focuses mainly on cases of German public officials who have been caught taking bribes. That leaves out the main thrust of German corruption, neglects its flawed tax laws and poor prosecution record, its frequent bribery of officials in the Third World in pursuit of contracts. Recent books (*Der Sumpf* by Jürgen Roth, *Wirtschaften Ohne Kurruption* by Weiner Ruegemer), a mass of anecdotal evidence, and a passing acquaintance with the holiday habits of backbenchers and lobbyists suggest how bent German society has become.

The Prussian rectitude of the civil service has been crumbling, and the cosy consensual partnership between finance and industry is turning into a club of backscratchers.

The key to Herr Kohl's survival of sleaze is that political embarrassment has almost always attached itself to those critical of him. The Flick affair, for example, claimed the career of the Free Democrat, Count Otto Lambsdorff, who stepped down in 1984 some three years before the case — linking tax evasion with murky party financing — came to court. The sharp-tongued count was one of the few politicians feared by Herr Kohl. Herr Kohl knows how to use sleaze to fortify his personal power.

Little wonder that he has been slow to push through an anti-corruption law — better to deny sleaze exists and exploit it when the occasion demands — or that Bonn is so sluggish in taking up the initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development against corruption. This has now become a source of friction between America and Germany. The Americans have been pressing for an OECD meeting in Paris next month to eliminate tax loopholes for bribery. Under German law, companies are allowed to deduct bribes from their tax bills as a legitimate business expense. The kickbacks are taxable when they become the subject of a criminal complaint. Naturally, this does not happen very often. Even under the terms of a new tougher draft which is winding its way through parliament, it will still be possible to claim tax breaks for bribes paid abroad.

Alain Farson, a State Department official, has just let off a broadside at the Germans. The bribing of a Third World minister might seem like a victimless crime, he says, but in fact, it directly hits the citizens of the developing country — who have money diverted from their aid budgets, forces up prices and creates a corrupt commercial atmosphere that eventually undermines not only the targeted country but also the companies and institutions who offered a bribe.

German industry is resisting any new legislation saying companies should police themselves. Privately, German officials argue that everybody (usually a Bonn euphemism for France) does it. The point is Germany probably could not stay competitive unless its businessmen oiled their deals. This is Herr Kohl's real failure. By neglecting the problem of labour costs for so long, he has helped to create a climate whereby "Made in Germany" has to be marketed abroad with the aid of backhanders. I wonder whether euros will be as acceptable as an attaché case full of marks.

Party rebel urges Kohl not to risk seeking fifth term

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, who recently announced with some fanfare that he was ready to stand again as German Chancellor, has come under fire from a leading member of his Christian Democratic Union.

Although the German leader brushed off the criticism yesterday, there are fears that the CDU will face a period of rough and tumble before crucial decisions on economic and monetary union.

The attack was launched by Professor Kurt Biedenkopf, the Prime Minister of Saxony and a long-standing critic of the Chancellor. In a letter to the Secretary-General of the Christian Democrats, Professor Biedenkopf said that Herr Kohl's eagerness to seek a fifth term posed a "particular risk for the party".

He said: "The position was made all the more remarkable by the fact that the Chancellor told voters in 1994 that this would be his last term." Herr Kohl should think again. "He has never before taken on such a high risk. In 18 months it will be incredibly difficult for the government coalition."

The CDU, he said, should start discussing openly whether Herr Kohl was really suitable and, if necessary, the party should hold a formal opinion survey. Since 1989, nobody within the party has spoken quite so forcefully against the Chancellor. The concern among CDU managers is that a group of dissidents will cluster round Professor Biedenkopf and their differences with the leadership will emerge clearly in the spring of next year when European states are judged on their ability to meet the criteria for monetary union.

The Chancellor responded yesterday by saying that to win the election "we need both a programme and a personality — the programme does not work without a personality". He did not need advice on this matter from ordinary people "or from professors". Professor Biedenkopf, apart from his political office, holds a chair in economic science.

Deputies said it would be pointless to carry out a poll of party opinion on Herr Kohl since some 96 per cent would favour the Chancellor continuing until he decides to stop. More importantly, an internal party debate about the future of Herr Kohl would deflect attention from the problems of the Social Democratic Opposition, which is struggling to choose an official contender for the 1998 elections. The contest, as yet undeclared, seems to be between Oskar Lafontaine, the party chairman, and Gerhard Schröder, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony.

Professor Biedenkopf emphasises that his doubts are not only about the personality of the Chancellor but about the poor success record of the Government. "The goal of halving unemployment by 2000 is not realistic, pension reforms stand on a very wobbly podium, the development of the economy and the reconstruction of the East is proceeding very sluggishly," the professor said in his strategically leaked letter.

The Chancellor seems to be aware he has to change the leadership image to make it more attractive to young voters. Yesterday he played down these concerns: "As dinosaurs are fashionable again with young kids, then let us go into election battle with dinosaurs!" More seriously, he has plans to bring fresh blood into the Cabinet in an autumn reshuffle and to project more effectively the youngest member of his team, Claudia Nolte, 30, the Family Minister.



Muscovite women drinking vodka to the memory of a relative while one of them kisses his headstone portrait in Sherbinka Cemetery yesterday, the Orthodox Easter Sunday, when Russians traditionally visit graves

Turkey's rulers squeezed by military

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY'S Islamic-led coalition Government appeared determined to hang on to power yesterday despite another bruising round of negotiations over the weekend with its own military.

The resignation of two prominent ministers from the cabinet is further indication, however, that the ten-month-old alliance between the Welfare Party of Necmettin Erbakan and the secular True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, has been consigned to a slow death.

Key aides to Mr Erbakan were yesterday making light of their leader's decision to sign a communiqué at the end of an eight-hour meeting of the military dominated National Security Council on Saturday. It called for continued vigilance against reactionary religious activities directed against the state.

Mr Erbakan was simply agreeing to forward the council's views to the cabinet, according to senior party members. It was up to parliament to decide how to act. This is very different to the military's view. It accuses the Welfare Party of turning a blind eye to radical Islam.

Top guns salute 50 years of air force

FROM GILES WHITTELL AT NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE NEVADA

ELITE pilots of America's only squadron of B2 stealth bombers were the stars of a huge two-day air show at the weekend that marked the US Air Force's fiftieth birthday with a mix of nostalgia, public relations and ear-splitting noise.

Exuding enough patriotism to reignite the Cold War, half a million Americans converged on the baking concrete of this vast Nevada base just north of Las Vegas to gawp at a mighty airborne arsenal built up with their taxes. The desert rumbled with Flying Fortresses, shook with the roar of afterburners and echoed with a defiant forecast of a "boundless future" for the USAF by the nation's senior airman.

General Ronald Fogleman has his work cut out. Six years after the Soviet collapse, his ranks have shrunk by nearly a quarter of a million, and the spectre of a third world war has all but gone. "Too many planes still in service, not enough threats," said an aviation industry analyst.

A succession of pilots who had been decorated in the Gulf War briefly banished such notions with deafening displays in the world's deadliest aerial hot-rods, including the F15, F16 and F117 stealth fighter. Despite the global downturn in demand, American manufacturers are expected to sell nearly 800 fighters abroad over the next decade.

Lacing the air with dust and exhaust fumes, the air force also made much of its new role as a distributor of humanitarian aid, showing off the controversial C17 jet transport, which can land in 1,800ft and reverse on the ground under its own power — at a cost of $340 million (£210 million) each.

For ageing veterans the show was a last hurrah enriched with Vegas-style showmanship. A Spitfire chased an Me109 towards the Hoover Dam in a "Battle of Britain Fly-by". A MiG21 had its tail waxed by an American Sabre jet in the manner of a Korean War dogfight. And retired General Chuck Yaeger, 74, who in 1947 became the first man to break the sound barrier, brought lumps to many a throat with a victory roll over the runway in a Second World War Mustang fighter.

Richard Tribe, 65, was standing under the open bomb-bay of a supersonic terrain-hugging instrument of Armageddon known as the B1. Was it worth $200 million? "You're damn right," he said. "This is why we're speaking English now, not Russian."

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Defiant Berisha condemns 'gangsters' ruling South

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

PRESIDENT BERISHA of Albania yesterday railed against "a mixture of smugglers and gangsters" who were being manipulated by his Socialist partners in government to put off a general election.

These malign forces manifested themselves in the "salvation committees" holding sway in the South of the country, he told *The Times*.

Mr Berisha rejected speculation that international troops would play a more active role in calming rebel-held areas and eventually securing polls. "I don't want a foreign soldier to be killed in Albania," he said. "They came for a noble mission, to protect convoys, and it makes no sense for a free country to lose its sons in another country." He added that "Spanish and French troops would be very lonely in the mountains", guarding polling booths.

Despite having lived in near-siege conditions for two months, the President was in fine form, firing on all fronts. Come what may, he vowed to remain in Albania, and in politics, until his dying day.

Mr Berisha and his reconciliation Government have set three preconditions for elections — the elimination of the southern salvation committees, free movement and the freedom for parties to campaign nationally. None of these has been met, and the current poll date of June 29 looks increasingly unlikely.

"No one will accept Albanian elections as free and fair with these committees in place," he said. "We are waiting for the Socialists: it is one thing not recognising them, but they are not dissolving them."

Mr Berisha spoke of using "force" to push the committees out of power, but anyone who has visited Vlore or other southern hotbeds of revolt recently knows that there is no government apparatus with any clout in the region. Mr Berisha was disheartened by news that the Italian command of Operation Alba has been negotiating with the Vlore salvation committee, led by Albert Shite. "It's unacceptable, absolutely unacceptable, it's a law in our parliament and an agreement signed with all governemnts having troops here," he said.

Mr Shite was described by Mr Berisha as "a very highly qualified cigarette-smuggler" who, with his colleagues, had plunged Vlore into "the saddest time of its 200-year history".

The attempt by Leka Zog I to restore the Albanian monarchy adds further confusion to the country's political landscape, but the President said he would stick to his promise of allowing a referendum on the issue. "If Albanians prefer a crown . . . I respect that."

Pre-Inca ruins 'inspired' Lima raid

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Fujimori of Peru was "inspired" by the underground tunnels of the pre-Inca ruins of Chavin de Huantar when planning the commando raid to free the hostages from the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima last week.

Señor Fujimori said yesterday he had "built a copy of an ancient feat of tunnel engineering" to get 140 troops into the rebel-held residence. The operation was named after its source of "inspiration".

On Saturday, he took Japan's Foreign Minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, on a guided tour of the Chavin de Huantar ruins, set at about 11,300ft above sea level, in the remote Andes region of Huaraz. He told the Japanese minister the "labyrinth of tunnels and underground chambers" of the ancient city had given him the idea of how to mount a commando raid.



President Fujimori in one of the tunnels his troops used

Troops used five tunnels that led from neighbouring houses into the Japanese compound. All of the 14 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas were killed.

Mr Ikeda is on a four-day visit to Peru to congratulate Señor Fujimori on the successful operation. The Japanese Ambassador, Morihisa Aoki, 14 embassy officials and four Japanese company executives were among the 71 hostages freed.

The tunnels, which took two months to dig, are at least 450ft long. They are 9ft wide and 6ft high, carpeted, well ventilated and lit by electric lights. It was possible for the troops to spend days underground organising their moves and time of attack. The military had set up offices and command units in the tunnels a month before the raid.

Señor Fujimori led Mr Ikeda around the caves and tunnels of the stone-block Chavin de Huantar ruins, explaining how he had used pre-Inca engineering to design the tunnels. An engineering professor before becoming President in 1990, Señor Fujimori appears to have drawn up plans for the raid himself. Chavin de Huantar is one of the oldest pre-Inca cultures, exisiting from 1300 to 400 BC, 2,000 years before the Incas.

The network of tunnels leading from one underground chamber to another remains almost intact. The caves are well ventilated, though the only opening is one main entrance. Pillars are decorated with carvings of Chavin deities, with part human, part animal faces.

Cracking the secret code of creation

Nigel Hawkes on a genetic breakthrough that could help the body grow replacement organs

Lose an arm and you'll never grow another one. That may seem obvious, but all the original genes which instructed the first arm to grow are still there and, in theory, available for service.

Turning them on again and enabling the body to rebuild itself after accident or disease has become the target of ambitious developmental biologists. They dream of reconstructing bones damaged by osteoporosis, or persuading the heart to build new muscle after a heart attack.

"The whole circuitry is there, ready to go," says Dr Doros Platika, president and chief executive of Ontogeny, a biotech company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and named after the development process — embryo to adult — through which we all pass. "What we are aiming to do is to revive capabilities that are lying dormant. If we can, we should be able to treat a number of degenerative diseases, from osteoporosis to Alzheimer's." Dr Platika's optimism is based on the huge progress made in the past ten years in understanding the process by which the single cell of a fertilised egg develops into the multiplicity of organs of the human body. This process, akin to a miracle, appears to use exactly the same mechanisms required in adults for growth, tissue regeneration and repair.



'The whole of human circuitry is there, just ready to go'

Dr Doros Platika

The trouble, explains Dr Platika, is that as we age, we lose the capability to turn on repair mechanisms. Operations on adults generally leave a scar, but operations carried out in the womb heal so perfectly that it is impossible to tell they have taken place.

In adults, the ability to regenerate organs is not lost: blood, bone, and many other organs are constantly being remade. The process is not universal, however. When a coronary artery is blocked, the body does not have the ability to create another one. But when a solid tumour develops anywhere in the body, it needs blood vessels to feed it, and they are created in great numbers. This shows, says Dr Platika, that the ability to create new organs is not lost in adults, but merely latent. Provide the right circumstances and it can be triggered back to life.

That answer, Ontogeny believes, is based on a family of proteins called Hedgehog. They have nothing to do with hedgehogs, having gained their name when scientists discovered the first one in 1980. Eric Wieschaus and Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard found that mutations in the gene responsible disrupted the development of fruit-fly embryos, turning them into a bristly shape, a bit like a hedgehog. For this discovery, the two won the 1995 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Since then, several more *Hedgehog* genes have been found. Dr Philip Ingham, of Sheffield University and a member of Ontogeny's scientific advisory board, was responsible with others for showing that higher animals have three *Hedgehogs*, called equally quaintly *Sonic hedgehog*, *Indian hedgehog*, and *Desert hedgehog*. (Conventionally, genes are given italics to distinguish them from the proteins they make, which are printed in roman script.)

Sonic hedgehog has several roles, including the creation of cells in the brain and central nervous system. *Indian hedgehog* is expressed in the limbs, directing the development of bone and cartilege, while *Desert hedgehog* drives the development of male sperm. The belief is that there are limited numbers of *Hedgehogs* — probably no more than three or four in humans, in which case it is possible that all of them have been discovered.

Ontogeny, which was founded in August 1994 by four developmental geneticists from Harvard, Columbia, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, owns the rights to all three *Hedgehogs*, which puts it in a strong position to exploit them commercially. But biologists remain uncertain about how easy that will be.

The principle is simple. The proteins produced by the *Hedgehog* genes bind to the surface of cells and initiate a series of developmental changes. If cells from the brain of chick embryos are exposed to *Sonic hedgehog*, for example, they develop into neurons that include the type responsible for making dopamine — just the sort of cells that Parkinson's disease patients lack. *Sonic hedgehog* can also be used to produce the neurons that are destroyed by Alzheimer's disease.

In this case, the idea would be to create the right kind of cells in culture, and then inject them into the brains of sufferers. That this might work is shown by earlier experiments, using foetal cells, which produced encouraging improvements in Parkinson's patients.

With *Indian hedgehog*, the hope is to treat osteoporosis, or fractures that refuse to mend. The company plans animal experiments beginning next year, followed by clinical trials. The German drug company, Boeringer Mannheim, is excited enough to have agreed to invest $40 million (£25 million) in a partnership with Ontogeny over the next five years. The experiments are designed to understand the processes more precisely and to develop therapies. This deal followed an even larger one, in which Biogen agreed to invest £80 million in a partnership with Ontogeny to develop drugs from each of the three Hedgehogs.

The embryologist Professor Lewis Wolpert, of University College London, is sceptical that things will prove as simple as Ontogeny and its partners hope. He suspects that clinical applications remain a long way off, if only because the process of signalling involves not just the Hedgehogs, but many other "inducing molecules" that are triggered in a cascade.

"Hedgehogs are signalling molecules," he says, "but I would be very surprised if the problem in most diseases is in the signal, rather than the response. My reason for believing that is quite simple. If diseases were caused by deficiencies in Hedgehog, then you wouldn't expect just one thing to go wrong, but lots of things."

Dr Platika acknowledges that there may be dozens of genes orchestrated by Hedgehog, and the company has developed a neat system for discovering them. The ability of geneticists to identify genes has outstripped their ability to discover exactly what they do. Ontogeny has developed a screening system, which enables candidate genes to be tested, and to discover if they have any function in the development process.

They do not have the field to themselves. There are at least nine American biotech companies with an interest in development, all hoping that they may be able to match Amgen Inc, which has produced the most successful biotech product to date, a genetically engineered human protein, erythropoietin, normally produced by the kidneys.

This protein stimulates the production of red blood cells, and can reverse the severe anaemia caused by kidney failure. Epogen and the related product, Neupogen, earn Amgen sales of $2 billion a year, proving that products designed to aid the development process can work and make a lot of money.

"It may be demented," Dr Platika says, "but I think we are going to be the Amgen of the future."



SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

The foetus can repair tissue damage — in future adults may be able to do the same

☐ Potent parasites ☐ Cosmic farewell ☐ Wood warning

Malaria bites back



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

COMMON anti-malaria drugs may increase the transmission of the disease, zoologists at the University of Edinburgh have discovered. Drugs such as *chloroquine* and *mefloquine* (sold as *Larium*) protect the individual from the symptoms of malaria, but unless all the parasites are killed, they do nothing to reduce transmission of the disease and may even increase it.

"*Chloroquine* kills many of the parasites, but the survivors compensate so the infection remains just as infectious," says Dr Angus Buckling, one of the Edinburgh team. Malaria is a growing threat in many parts of the world, with deaths in some African countries rising sevenfold over the past five years. In poor countries, the drugs are too expensive for everybody to use, and those that can afford them tend to give up taking them too soon, creating conditions for the disease to spread.

The cause of the disease is a parasite of the genus *Plasmodium*, which is carried from person to person by mosquitoes. In the victim, the parasite divides to form many offspring, called asexuals, which infect the red blood cells before themselves reproducing. Anti-malarial drugs kill off these asexuals, which are responsible for the symptoms of malaria. But some survive and go on to produce the sexual form of the parasite, which can then infect other people.

Using a form of malaria that infects mice, the Edinburgh team has shown that mice treated with *chloroquine* have a smaller number of asexuals, but these compensate by producing the sexual form more rapidly. The result is that the transmission rate to mosquitoes is the same in untreated as in treated populations.

Writing in *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, they say that the response is typical of any organism put under stress. The tendency is to shift energy into an unstressed part of the organism, or of its life-cycle. Gardeners who pick the flowers from potatoes — thus preventing sexual reproduction — do so because it encourages the plant to shift effort into asexual reproduction by producing more tubers.

The team, led by Dr Andrew Read, believes malaria drugs may actually increase the rate of infection in a population. As they reduce the number of parasites, they may also reduce the immune response to infection which, he says, "could result in greater transmission from infected people".

Taking anti-malarials in countries where only a proportion of the population can afford them is therefore an "I'm all right, Jack" strategy. The person taking the drugs is protected, but to the possible detriment of poorer sections of the community. Dr Read is not suggesting that anti-malaria drugs should not be taken. "We're saying 'use them properly'," he says. This means persisting to the end of the course.

As most anti-malarials attack the same stage of the life-cycle, the Edinburgh findings are likely to apply across the board. Further tests using other drugs confirm this, and the next step will be to see if potential vaccines produce the same response.

Astronomers find comet's third tail



AS THE comet Hale-Bopp makes its farewells, astronomers have discovered something strange: it has three tails. In addition to the dust and ion tails, Hale-Bopp has a third tail, consisting of neutral sodium atoms. It was identified by a team led by Dr Gabriele Cremonese, of the Astronomical Observatory in Padua, using a telescope on Palma in the Canary Islands.

The sodium tail is about 400,000 miles wide and 30 million miles long, and was spotted when the comet was observed through a narrow-band filter designed to detect the orange glow of sodium. The new tail is a mystery because it is not clear why it exists. The ion tail is there because ions are torn from the comet by the electrically charged particles of the solar wind, but this should not happen to the neutral particles seen in the sodium tail.

"There must be a completely new mechanism at work here," says Richard West, of the European Southern Observatory. One possibility is that the sodium particles are shed by the dust driven from the comet's nucleus.

Don't tread on the bluebells



SPRING is here and the bluebells are out in the woods. But for heaven's sake don't tread on them, say Dr Susan Barker and Jim Littlemore, of the University of Warwick. They have found that these apparently indestructible plants, appearing every spring in their millions, are easily damaged by the tread of feet.

They found that seed production in bluebells declined to only a tenth of normal levels after 200 people had passed through specially prepared "trampling lanes". Recovery rates were also poor, they report in *Tree News*, with low seed production persisting season after season. These "drastic results" suggest that the carrying capacity of many bluebell woods is a lot lower than anybody thought, since seed is the main method used by bluebells to sustain their numbers.

Nor are bluebells the only victims; they are, in fact, much tougher than many other woodland plants. The message is that people, visiting the woods to admire the bluebells, should stick to the paths, and resist the temptation to walk through them.

Anjana Ahuja looks at what makes one joke flat, another funny

It really is the way we tell 'em

WHY do we find some jokes hilarious and others duds? It's the way they tell 'em, according to researchers at the Media Laboratory of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who filmed the monologues of stand-up comedians.

The most effective jokes did not depend on subject matter but on three magic ingredients controlled by the joke-teller — long pauses, expansive hand gestures and fluctuations in intonation. "It may be that the professional comedian uses these signals to guide the audience," reveals MIT researcher Joshua Wachman in a documentary to be shown on satellite television tomorrow.

The science of humour is a serious business. The reason is that nobody knows where our sense of humour comes from, nor why it evolved. MIT is not the only high-flying institution peering behind the punchline; psychologists at Nasa's Langley Laboratory are investigating what happens in the brain when people are confronted with something amusing.

Volunteers are wired up to a computer and their brain's electrical impulses are scanned as they read statements on the screen. At the end of each statement is a blank space: a key is pressed to make the punchline appear. For example, one sentence is "The pizza is too hot to . . .". If the word "eat" appears in the space, the brain takes 300 milliseconds to make sense of the phrase.

However, if the sentence becomes "The pizza is too hot to cry", the brain takes 400 milliseconds to register it and emits a different type of electrical impulse. Moreover, the same 400 millisecond wave is produced when the subject is tickled by a joke.

Dr Peter Derks, from the Langley Laboratory, reckons that the key to humour lies in this 100 millisecond difference — he thinks humour may have evolved as a way of detecting incongruity, and is therefore a problem-solving tactic.

Yet another expert on the case is Robert Provine, a psychologist from Maryland University, who has observed that people laugh in the same way. So whether you giggle breathlessly like Marilyn Monroe or boom like Frank Bruno, you issue short bursts of sounds that repeat at regular intervals.

DR PROVINE points out that people cannot titter on command; he confirms this by asking bemused members of the public to do so. However, when he produces a "laugh box" which delivers an electronic snigger, most people succumb to a chuckle. From this he has deduced that laughter is unconsciously controlled, and is a message that we send to other people (we are 30 times more likely to chortle if we are in company).

● Origins, *Discovery Channel, tomorrow, 8pm.*

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What do we tell the children?

DRUGS Could your child be taking them? Part one of a series examining strategies for parents and schools



Advertising against drugs can be counter-productive: this poster became a pin-up on teenagers' bedroom walls

'Hitting people over the head to change their mind won't work'

It began as a warning and become a family joke. As our three daughters one by one reached clubbing age, we would see them off for their nights out with a brave "Have a good time". Then we would call out after them: "And no E!"

For us it was a semi-serious mantra to ward off anxiety. For the girls, who knows? Perhaps it would be some sort of inoculation against the Ecstasy epidemic. Besides it was funny. The slogan started to appear as an envoy at the foot of notes left on the hall table. "Gone to Brixton. Back at 4am. Sam, Dan, Jan, Fran, Shan and the other Dan staying the night in my room. Please don't wake. No E!"

But the real joke as far as the children were concerned was that by the time each of them hit 15 and we started leaving newspapers lying around open at the latest Ecstasy scare story, we were at least two years too late. The timing was about as well-judged as my father's first and only sex talk with me, aged 16.

They say that the age at which most London children have their first encounters with drugs is about 13. Last week a primary school in Barnet expelled a nine-year-old for cannabis possession.

Parents bringing up children in the Fifties worried about pregnancy. In the Sixties, they worried about pregnancy and drugs. In the Nineties we worry about violence, Aids, drugs and pregnancy, more or less in that order.

The problem with drugs is that the young do not recognise them as much of a problem and the old are not absolutely certain how much of a problem they are. A lot of parents today tried dope and even acid in their day and that was cool. Now they read about poor Leah Betts, shudder at the murderous crack plagues in urban America and wonder what other substances are doing the rounds.

If they are really masochistic they see *Trainspotting* and then rush home to go through the bin bags for used needles. Beryl Bainbridge told me once that serious drug users are impenetrable liars and that the only way to suss them out is to search their rooms and read their diaries. When one of my children, aged 17, came home with pupils the size of Smarties, I submitted her to the full panicky interrogation treatment. She finally confessed to having smoked some marijuana and all I could feel was relief.

She first came across weed, puff, skunk — whatever you want to call it these days

> 'No one would ever dream of asking their parents about drugs or take any notice of the answers, if they did'

—when public schoolboy friends in London for the holidays skinned up. She was only 13 and decided not to. My son is now the same age and claims to have been offered marijuana six or seven times by boys his own age, working for older boys.

At the clubs, they get approached all the time. The Nineties equivalent of the night-club cigarette girl has marijuana, hash, Ecstasy, speed and tabs of acid for sale. But they don't hassle you. My daughters claim that it's okay not to do drugs. "People come up to you when you're dancing and say 'Hey, what are you on?' and you can say 'I'm natural', and that's cool. Most of my friends stay natural. So much depends on who your friends are. For example, Jewish people never do E."

If my children are staying natural, save perhaps for the odd puff of puff, that has nothing to do with anything we have told them. They tell me no one would ever dream of asking their parents about drugs or take any notice of the answers, if they did. Kindly, my 13-year-old explains: "It's not a case of 'What the hell do *they* know?', it's that they just don't know *what's real*."

So what or who does influence them? Chiefly, the experiences of people their own age who have tried something and the antics of those who are still trying. By common consent, cannabis seems barely to qualify as a drug at all.

Drug talks at school are less footling than parents probably imagine. A deep impression was made on my children by a roving lecturer and poet called Phil Cooper. He is a tattooed, street-wise, 45-year-old ex-junkie covered in scars from having thrown himself out of a window during a bad acid trip. What he has to say is scary without being prescriptive. He illustrates the danger of adulterated stuff by inviting a kid to come up and taste some white powder which, he says, is flour. Afterwards, Phil announces that it is athlete's foot powder. "We came out of his talk and we all said never," says the 15-year-old. She and her friends had a similar reaction to *Trainspotting*. "The best anti-drugs film ever made."

Price is a big antidote, which is one argument against the legalisers. A "wrap" of speed costs £7-£8. That may be the main reason why the Class A narcotics don't seem to figure much on the teenage scene.

Even the big summer festivals are fuelled more by hard drinking than hard drug-taking. Recalling the hollow-eyed wraiths who returned from Reading a year ago, I suppose that is something of a comfort. I may not know much about E, but I am an old hand at hangover cures.

TREVOR GROVE

GETTING THE MESSAGE across

The educational short film *Reefer Madness*, which was shown in cinemas in the 1950s, portrayed a group of squeaky-clean, all-American youngsters who experiment with cannabis and are instantly transformed into bulging-eyed, maniacal drug fiends.

So leaden was it with B-movie kitsch that it is now considered a minor classic by connoisseurs of the genre.

Similarly, in the mid-1980s the Government, panicked by the sudden surge in heroin misuse, commissioned an advertising agency to market the message of the inherent dangers of drugs.

The television and poster campaign featured a spotty youth looking like a horror movie extra next to the slogan Heroin Screws You Up.

As an exercise in drugs prevention it was the *Reefer Madness* of its day. For many young people drugs are appealing because of their cachet of danger and illegality. Reinforcing this through advertising can encourage more use. Indeed, the actor used for the Heroin Screws You Up campaign was too good looking, despite the painted on acne, and the posters ended up adorning the walls of teenage girls' bedrooms.

"There was a thought that if you hit people over the head hard enough you can make their choice for them. But you can't do that," says Professor Griffith Edwards, chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

So what is the most effective way to convey the dangers of drugs to children? The thinking now is non-judgmental — let young people make their own, informed choices.

In 1995, the Government funded a three-year campaign by the Health Education Authority, which had never previously been involved with drugs education. One result was the creation of the National Drugs Helpline which fields half a million calls a year, two thirds from teenagers. The on-line counsellors "steer away from preaching," says spokesman Andrew Seale.

They offer advice and can refer callers to local drugs services. "The top line is that drugs are not safe," he says. Parents also call in large numbers. "They often have to be calmed down because they are in a total panic. They're told to go and make a cup of tea and call back." The authority is also spending £2.5 million on a radio campaign aimed at 16 to 25-year-olds. Television was rejected because it is often watched with other members of the family and its impact could be compromised by unwelcome or difficult comments from their parents.

"Young people often listen to the radio alone, in their bedrooms or in a car, away from peer pressure," says Mr Seale. The radio campaign's aim is "harm minimisation" and uses young people talking about their real life experiences of mixing drugs to "make drug users think again".

By 16 years plus, the aim is reduce demand rather than completely obliterate drug use. Other campaigns focus on the 13-16 age range when "curiosity starts" and the 11-13 group who "tend to be firm rejectionist. The aim is to encourage that tendency before onset of curiosity."

Another innovative approach is to let young people themselves assume a role in drugs prevention. At the inner city King's Corner Project, which caters for 16 to 25-year-olds in Islington, north London, funding has been secured for a group of young people to develop a drug prevention CD-Rom which will be distributed in schools.

These young people gained their drug education by experimentation and from their friends. "It used to be that a bunch of lads would get together and go out for a few beers, now they get together and drop an E," says student Kevin Maguire. Scaremongering about drugs just bounces off the group. Mike O'Kelly holds a copy of a book about crack cocaine. "*Crack of Doom*," says Mike, reading aloud the book's title and shaking his head. "That is just so over the top."

The group is brainstorming ideas about how to develop the CD-Rom using an interactive game where the young player can explore drugs culture and learn about the effects and health risks of the different drugs. "We don't want to use shock tactics," says Kevin. "No," says Isabelle Gotunes, "but we need to make the point that if people make the wrong move they can end up in the grave."

JULIAN KOSSOFF

● *The author is Assistant News Editor, Time Out magazine*

● *National Drugs Helpline: 0800-77-66-00*

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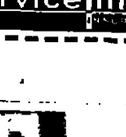
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MAGNUM

Drug users seek escape from past troubles and future worries in an all-embracing "now". Yet the sensitive connections in their brains are being damaged, perhaps forever

Blowing your mind

When I visit schools to give teenagers a flavour of current brain research, there is often a pin-drop silence as we come to the subject of drugs. It is not that I attempt to clamber on to the moral high ground. Rather, what I try to convey is that drug abuse puts at risk one's most valuable possession: the mind.

Why? Most people think that the brain, and in turn their "character" and "mind", is an immutable, albeit elusive, entity. Some would go further and claim the brain was like a computer — an electrical marvel. After all, the familiar EEG records waves of electrical signals that are generated within the outer layer of the brain in sufficient force to penetrate the skull. Is it not remarkable, then, that a drug which is a chemical should make any impression on the brain, and indeed the mind? Clearly the brain must be more than just a buzzing hub of electrical comings and goings. Chemicals are pivotal.

The electrical part of the story unfolds mainly within the single, isolated brain cell, a neuron. Each neuron generates a voltage: if everyday charged atoms (ions) enter or leave the cell, there is a sharp blip — an electrical signal lasting one or two thousandths of a second. This is enough to contribute to an EEG, and any of the hundred billion neurons in the brain will send it out as an attempt to communicate with the next neuron along. The only problem is that brain cells do not so much shake hands as keep each other at arms' length. The "arm" (axon) of a neuron can be very long, nonetheless the electrical blip hurtles out along it at high speed. But then the problem: there is a gap (synapse). An analogy would be that of motoring along an empty road which terminates at a river. The car is no longer of use. One solution would be to abandon the car in favour of a boat, cross the river, dock the boat and acquire another car to continue. Such is nature's strategy. The electrical signal, the car, triggers the release of a special chemical — a "transmitter" — from the end of the first neuron: this molecular speedboat can cross the gap and dock into a custom-made site on the outside of the target cell. It is this precise interlocking that triggers a new flux of ions into or out of the second cell, creating a new electrical signal.

Most commonly, then, the electrical part of brain operations is restricted to what happens *within* a brain cell, whereas chemicals are important in what happens *between* them. And this is where many of the most powerful drugs come in.

Opium, for example, and its derivatives morphine and heroin, work by fooling the brain into thinking that a naturally occurring transmitter (enkephalin) has been released. The drugs are sufficiently similar in structure to pose as convincing impostors, fitting into the relevant receptor and causing changes in the communication between certain brain cells.

The chilling difference, however, is one of *quantity*. The naturally occurring enkephalins are released in minuscule amounts in localised sites within the brain, as and when needed: they are then rapidly removed from the site of action. By contrast, the drug counterparts will be taken into the bloodstream and gain indiscriminate access to many parts of the brain. At the same time, the drug will be taken in far higher doses and will loiter in the critical zones for longer.

DRUGS AND THE BRAIN

KOBAL



Many films and books appear to endorse drug-taking

Hence the effect is a vastly exaggerated caricature. Moreover, the receptors — which act as intermediaries — can react to constant bombardment by becoming less "sensitive" to instigating the next electrical signal in the chain. Hence more drug is needed to attain the original effect: addiction.

This crippling phenomenon offers a window on a fundamental feature of the brain: even in adults, the efficiency of connections between neurons is subject to change. It is this dynamic aspect that underlies memory and learning. And if we can learn — change from experience — then surely we "ourselves" (who are, after all, no more or less than the connections in our brain) can change, too.

My view is that the "mind" is the personalisation of the brain, via configuring and reconfiguring its microcircuitry through experience. This elaborate and ever-changing circuitry will play an important part not only in contributing to one's "personality" but also as a means of making sense of the outside world.

It is from experience that we know, unlike a child, that a figure draped in a white sheet is someone with a tired sense of humour rather than a ghost. As such, our carefully nurtured "minds" act as a form of inner resource against the confusion of the outside world. Arguably, nightmares could be interpreted as returns to the mindless terrors of childhood, where our sobering ability to rationalise from experience has let us down. One has temporarily "lost one's mind".

If mind is rooted in neuronal circuitry, which in turn is dependent on chemical interactions, it is not surprising that a host of mental disorders can be treated with drugs. But there is no drug without a side effect; for example the common treatment for what could be viewed as a protracted nightmare, schizophrenia, can also induce bodily tremors.

This is because, as with morphine, the drug will not only intervene at the site of disarray but will distort communications between other brain regions as well. In the case of professionally prescribed medication, the payoff is hopefully worth it. But what of a healthy brain seeking a chemical kick-start into some merely new consciousness?

The most frequently abused drugs, all so different in their effects, seem to share the common factor of serving to reduce the contribution from the "mind", unleashing a present that dominates at the expense of thoughts of past, or hopes of future. The emphasis is on a Now, which is either more dream-like and unreal (heroin), gives distorted sensations (LSD), is more exciting (cocaine and amphetamine), or is stripped of all individual "meaning" (Ecstasy).

Just as with bungee jumping, the user is in an encapsulated snapshot. But chemical bungee jumping has no guaranteed bounce-back. Drug-induced consciousness may be in the present; but the brain, obliging and wondrous organ that it is, is always ready to learn, to change.

Drugs work away at the mind as a very blunt instrument. They are not likely to respect the highly localised and specialised changes that occur between neurons during the lifelong evolution of our individuality. By marinating the connections in high and persistent levels of psychoactive agents, it would be hard to see how the connections between neurons were *not* going to change profoundly. Blowing one's mind may be literally just that.

SUSAN GREENFIELD

The author is Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, a Fellow of Lincoln College and Gresham Professor of Physics

FACTS AND FIGURES

AMPHETAMINES
Also called speed, whizz, sulphate, poor man's cocaine.
Price: £10-£20 a gram.
Form: Usually in wraps of powder, snorted up the nose or smoked in a cigarette; occasionally in a pill. Hardcore addicts inject it.
Duration of high: 6-8 hours.
Legal status: Class B.
Highs: A powerful stimulant which excites the central nervous system, elevating the mood and increasing endurance (including sexual stamina).
Lows: Lethargy and depression the next day. Psychologically addictive. Panic attacks and occasionally heart failure.

CANNABIS
Grass, weed, hash, dope, pot, hemp, ganja, blow.
Price: £25 to £50 a quarter ounce for the more powerful "skunk" which is grown at clandestine "farms".
Form: Most common is to smoke it in a "joint" or a "spliff", or pipes and "bongs" which are sold in cannabis paraphernalia shops. Also eaten in cakes.
Duration of high: 1-2 hours.
Legal Status: Class B.
Highs: Relaxation, enhances wellbeing and happiness. Users claim increased intuitive insights. Occasional hallucinations.
Lows: Continual use weakens short-term memory; lethargy and paranoia.

COCAINE
Coke, charlie, white, Bolivian marching powder.
Price: £50-£70 a gram.
Form: White powder; snorted, smoked, injected or rubbed on the gums.
Duration of high: One gram will last the night.
Legal status: Class A.
Highs: Feelings of omnipotence. The drug also reduces the need to eat and sleep; fairly subtle behavioural changes go largely unnoticed to an untrained eye.
Lows: Can be highly addictive. Constant use can cause exhaustion, anxiety, weight loss, collapsed nasal passages, heart failure.

ECSTASY
E, XTC, MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine), also various "brand" names.
Price: £10-£12.
Form: Mainly tablets.
Duration of high: 4-8 hours.
Legal status: Class A.
Highs: Euphoria, benevolence, a feeling of intense intimacy and abnormal levels of energy.
Lows: Nausea, diarrhoea, sweating. Afterwards fatigue and depression over several days. Death from respiratory collapse and overheating.

HEROIN
Smack, brown, horse.
Price: £80-£100 a gram.
Form: Street heroin has a brownish tinge. It can be injected, snorted or smoked pure (chasing the dragon).
Duration of high: Up to 3 hours.
Legal status: Class A.
Highs: An opiate, heroin creates a instant rush of pleasure, cocooned warmth and sleepiness.
Lows: Heroin can be both mentally and physically addictive. Withdrawal symptoms include sweats, vomiting and possible coma. A pure dose can kill. Sharing needles carries high HIV risk.

LSD
Lysergic acid diethylamide, acid, trips, tabs.
Price: £3-£5.
Form: Generally available as squares of impregnated card about the size of a small fingernail, sometimes with symbols such as Batman or a smiling face on them.
Duration of high: 6-12 hours.
Legal Status: Class A
Highs: Grand claims that it transports the mind to a higher sphere and turns consciousness inside out. Most users have auditory or visual hallucinations.
Lows: It has been claimed that even a single trip can bend minds permanently, or tip someone into schizophrenia. Has led users to believe they have superhuman abilities such as flying, resulting in death or injury. Flashbacks.

SOLVENTS/GASES
Price: Glue or lighter fuel cost as little as £1.
Form: Fumes from such products are inhaled.
Duration of high: 15 to 45 minutes.
Legal status: It is an offence to supply to under-18s knowing that they intend to become intoxicated.
Highs: Users — 10 per cent of secondary schoolchildren try it once — feel euphoric. Many report hallucinations.
Lows: Two to three users die each week. Can damage kidneys, liver and brain.

JULIAN KOSSOFF

TOMORROW

Schools: the startling truth is that middle-class children as young as ten have an astonishing insight into the drug scene



Helmut Kohl

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ARTS
THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Heads she wins: Christine Borland's striking sculpture goes on show at the Lisson Gallery

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



THEATRE

Curtain up in Scarborough on Alan Ayckbourn's latest play, *The Things We Do For Love*

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

At Covent Garden Darcey Bussell leads the cast of Glen Tetley's new ballet

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



BOOKS

The very shy and retiring Thomas Pynchon produces a new novel, *Mason & Dixon*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

And it's Roy Keane, on as sub for Edmund

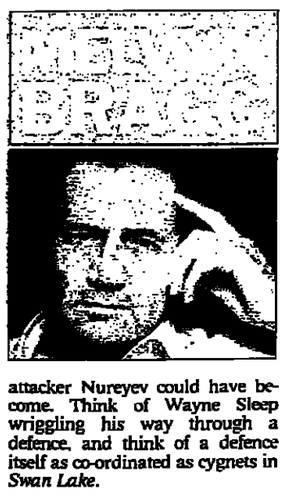
We all agree that it has gone on for far too long. I am, I confess, rather addicted to it, although I am aware that it is a pursuit that bores many more people than it engages. The winner has been apparent for some time, and indeed the outcome was predicted ages ago. The comments of the leaders are becoming increasingly terse, and who can dispute that much of the charm is beginning to drain away? Thank goodness it will soon be over and we can all take a rest. It has been a very long season.

But now, with the Premier League all but settled, and the unique news of Carlisle United winning at Wembley winging its way to that great grandstand in the sky where my father, faithful through years of Third Division North football, will be singing hallelujahs, we can re-engage the great discussion of the moment — how can we fit football into an art form? Is it ballet, theatre, music, or a combination of all of them?

Here we can only scratch the surface of a subject taking up more and more academic resources. There are a number of the older universities which — unsurprisingly, perhaps, given that they are funded by Littlewoods of Liverpool — favour the comparison with music. A cluster of newer universities in the south and west that have wangled lottery money are, perhaps consequently, determined to prove that football is a theatrical enterprise. (Incidentally, this receives much support from the Latin world.) Football as dance — an easier case — is being tackled by the London School of Economics with a controversial grant from the Arts Council's flexible dance panel. There is some work being done in Dublin on football as poetry, and at the "University of Highbury", in North London, football as fiction is a compulsory first-year course. There is also a most unfashionable school — buried somewhere in the north, around the new university of Old Trafford — devoted to the passé notion that war and battle are still relevant to football. This school seems completely unaware of the new aesthetic at large.

Football as ballet is worth serious consideration. I remember, in 1966, a young Michael Kustow about to hurl himself on to the pyre of the ICA suggesting that I make an arts programme about the game in terms of ballet. Until then, I had no idea that Kustow knew what shape a football was, but I was flattered for football. Alas, it was an idea before its time.

Since then, of course, Football-as-Dance has become a rich area for doctorates all over the football world. It is not difficult to see why. What a header of the ball Nijinsky would have been. What an



attacker Nureyev could have become. Think of Wayne Sleep wriggling his way through a defence, and think of a defence itself as co-ordinated as cygnets in *Swan Lake*.

Clearly this has to be given serious consideration, especially when we add individual instances such as the elegant movements of Dennis Bergkamp or the sudden dashes of Ian Wright, or the occasional wholly surprising entrances of David Platt.

The fact that football has no set pattern, no inevitable plot, no guaranteed climax, no single-authored vision — these are just a few of the trivial points being addressed by our leading scholars.

The musical comparison may be harder to accept at first, but the word "orchestrate" constantly comes to mind. Arsène Wenger, for instance, has orchestrated a hitherto rather ballooning Highbury side into a new formation which prefers to keep the ball on the grass. Bach, as it were, has replaced Baroque.

If we can regard the passage of the ball as the melody, and each player as a different instrument — Tony Adams at the cello, for instance, and Patrick Vieira in the brass section — and if we can use the same imagination as those scientists who think in ten dimensions, then surely we can embrace the thought that movement can be translated into sound. Indeed, John Cage has given us all a powerful precedent.

Should this be too difficult, then we can take on board the roars of the crowd and the wild clarinet of the referee's whistle, which give enough primitive pulsing to dignify the game with the same energy so freely acknowledged by our contemporary composers who have stolen so profitably from what they call primitive cultures.

But it is, of course, the theatrical which is the most favoured by the more pointy-headed scholars. The very words we use from Sophocles to Shakespeare to Stoppard are there before us on the field incarnate. We have our players; we have our drama and our melodrama, our comedies and tragedies and histories and plays of manners. We have our acts and scenes and one man in his time often plays many parts. Polonius would have been a good sports writer, given the breadth of his overview. This analogy with the theatre seems the perfect fit.

However, an obstinate university department in the north persists in calling football a "game", with rules and intentions and expectations essentially different from any artistic enterprise. Annoyingly, this nagging reminder of times past will not go away. Thankfully, though, the word "game" is disappearing from football, as art and business gain the upper hand, and "game" is relegated to other areas of our national life, such as politics.

DONALD COOPER



English National Opera's latest revival of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne on Naxos*: "Purely vocally, this was a pretty stunning evening"

The sounds of pleasure

OPERA

Ariadne on Naxos
Coliseum

If you ever thought that Strauss's chamber opera got lost in the wide-open spaces of the Coliseum, then hurry along to the latest revival. Friday's opening night was a welter of luscious sound, so much so that one occasionally wished that earplugs had been handed out with the programmes. No criticism — as Dame Edna would say, I mean that caringly. Purely vocally, this was a pretty stunning evening, thanks to three American singers making their house debuts.

Christine Brewer has everything for the title role: ample, vibrant tone throughout the range from top B flats either ringingly loud or sketched in pianissimo (obeying Strauss to the letter) down to a bottom A flat that is really in the voice, not conjured out of some resonating-cavity oubliette. And she has the breath control to soar through Strauss's long phrases to thrilling effect. She is also hypermusical, caressing those phrases with the sensuousness of a true Straussian.

Her Bacchus is Jon Fredric West, who has sung Otello at the Met and you can hear why — his heroic tone pins you to the back of your seat, at times a little unsparingly, though he floated one sweetly operetta-ish soft A that left you asking for more. Poetic he isn't, but such complete security in a killer-role counts for a lot. Like Brewer, he got every word of Tom Hammond's translation across, reminding you that the opera is about something other than vocal prowess.

Erie Mills (Zerbinetta) is no mechanical nightingale. Her substantial soprano fills the auditorium with ease, and indeed Es. She held on longer than strictly necessary to a note most Zerbinettas come off as soon as they decently can, and why not? If you've got it, flaunt it. The Composer is a deeply ambiguous role; sopranos fare better in it, and it exposed some raw, strident passages at the top of Susan Parry's mezzo in her first attempt. Nicholas Folwell's first Music Master, though, was a notable success — again, every word made to count.

Peter Snipp's unconventionally poetic Harlequin continues to give pleasure, and Donald Sinden's way-over-the-top Major Domo to infuriate: gags with the orchestra and conductor are not in the script, but I imagine there's no stopping him. The conductor in question, Richard Hickox, was somewhat inflexible early on, but joined Brewer and West in a final 20-minute wallow of Tyrian, not to say Tony Blair-style purple.

RODNEY MILNES

Fearful fun, to be Frank

THEATRE

The Wasp Factory
Leeds

IAIN BANKS is a compulsively readable writer, but if I ever had the chance to explore the inside of his head, I might decline. A fellow can never be sure what will happen to him in a place like that. Nor a woman neither, which is more to the point in this first novel of his. As for dogs, rabbits, sheep and, of course, wasps, they are fortunate if the death they meet is quick.

Published in 1984, admired and loathed in equal proportions, the book has become a cult novel, tapping a contemporary desire to find horrors treated with humour. On a sandy island, off the coast by Inverness, torched small animals turn as crisp as the phrases that describe the torching. But, like other modern Scottish novelists of cult status, a core of social criticism can be discerned, although not in this adaptation by Malcolm Sutherland.

However, until the muddled denouement — or rather, one of the pair of climaxes that end Frank's story — Sutherland's direction is ferociously imaginative. The action is set on a slightly tilted, split stage (at the West Yorkshire Playhouse) where four of Frank's Sacrifice Poles stand silhouetted against the plain cyclorama. Robert Innes Hopkins's elegant design can become island, dunes and town. Then, when the scenery closes in, his set becomes Frank's odd home or the door, 20 foot high, to his father's locked study.

Sutherland's version retains the first-person narration of the book but distributes it between two Franks (Martin Freeman and Tom Smith), identically dressed in striped shirts and horn-rims. In the scene with David Gant's grimly bearded Father, or with the host of victims, one Frank can remain impassive, the other reveal feeling or intention. This is a strikingly successful device, not only theatrical but creepy and alarming, so that the murders of cousin Blyth by snake, young brother Paul by bomb, and cousin Esmeralda by soaring kite are given a collusive tone from the start. The two Franks are the image of Frank and the reader/audience, and nervously disconcerting this can be.

What this powerfully acted adaptation does not manage to recreate is the climactic scene when Frank's brother Eric returns from the asylum. The secret of Frank's nature, contained in the study, is revealed, and this is effectively done. But the axe-wielding masked figure who threatens, departs and is seen no more leaves half the story in the air. "Parents!" says Frank in disgust at the end. The first line of Philip Larkin's most famous poem could never be more aptly applied than to Banks's Frantic Hero.

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■ POP

The Mutton Birds meet the Tragically Hip for a night of kiwi thrills at Shepherds Bush

GIG: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ FILM

Helena Bonham Carter smoulders alluringly in the powerful *Margaret's Museum*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

Paul Daniel bows out of conducting Opera North with *Tannhäuser* at the Grand in Leeds

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday



■ MUSIC

Blow-by-blow account: Europe's top brass gather for a gala at the Barbican

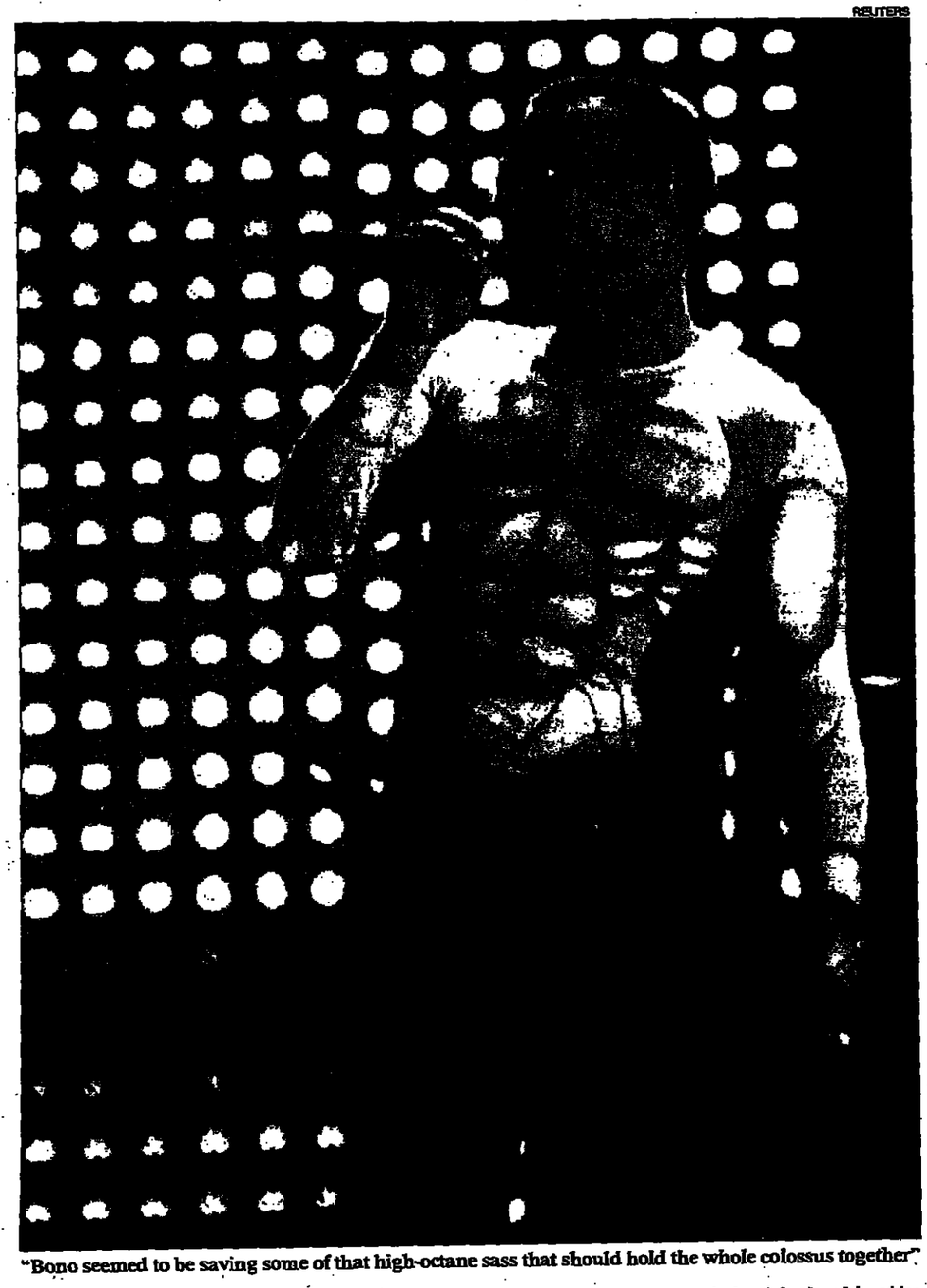
CONCERT: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

POP: U2 take to the road in Las Vegas. Plus, new-style American gospel on the South Bank; and a celebration of youth

Taking a back seat to technology

U2 launched its massive world tour in Las Vegas on Friday night. **Luke Clancy** reports on the band's biggest gamble yet



REUTERS

"Bono seemed to be saving some of that high-octane sass that should hold the whole colossus together"

Numbers seem to pour from U2's latest colossal global tour, PopMart, like a vapour trail of digits. Numbers for the megawattage of the PA, for the height of the world's largest LED video screen and its retinue of flashing pixels, numbers for the height of the stage, numbers even for the weight of the stage, seep out everywhere. So many numbers, indeed, that on paper PopMart looks like a chunk of computer code, ready to run across a network of parks, bowls, stadiums, superdomes, skydomes and astrodomes.

But what can this application do? As a concert act, U2 start out a couple of blocks ahead of most. When was the last time anybody wondered what an Oasis gig was about? The difference is not the result of faulty communication on the part of other bands, but simply U2's obvious ambition to make popular art: art that isn't snared in a narrowcasting ghetto, defeated by the curve balls of its own private language.

So where better to kick off U2's latest tour, to launch the Irish band's biggest gamble yet — reported to cost $214,000 each night it plays over the next 14 months — than in Las Vegas?

The PopMart stage at the Sam Boyd Stadium, an asymmetrical arrangement suggesting the façade of a utopian shopping mall, topped with a giant olive skewered on a 100-foot cocktail stick, pays homage to the colours that are now Las Vegas's own. The set is dominated by that spectrum of unhealthy hues that Tom Wolfe called "the electrochemical pastels of the Florida littoral". The agitated clementine oranges, banana margarita yellows and highway wedding chapel magentas that Bugsy Siegel's designers first imported from Miami after the Second World War.

Of course, Las Vegas has been well trodden over since Wolfe wrote about it in the early Sixties, notably by the architecture critic Robert Venturi. Venturi's vision of the architecture of Las Vegas as a metropolis of communicating surfaces, in short the first city of the post-modern globe, must also play a part in the densely conceptualised kitsch of PopMart.

To a large degree, the kitsch that seems to interest U2 now is, like Vegas itself, a closer friend of boredom than of entertainment. *Pop*, the album, is a complicated piece of work about seeking a sensation that will finally penetrate psychic anaesthesia, about the death drives and unprincipled pleasures of consumer culture. Bono's passion now seems frequently directed towards pessimism slipping into weariness. It is not easy to wed such fugitive ideas to stadium rock'n'roll, never mind deliver it to 35,000 people who applaud when the LED screen comes on, and howl ecstatically when logos on it begin to move. If there is one thing U2 are blithely optimistic about, it is their fans.

> "U2 are still trawling the art world for images"

U2 are still trawling the art world for images and ideas, but these days the whole thing seems to have become more historical. For the PopMart tour, which reaches Britain in August, the band, and presumably the small army of visual consultants credited on the programme, have gone back to the Sixties, to the pioneer explorers of the culture of surfaces. They have returned to see if there is any mileage left in Warhol's plundered screen print Hollywood, or Lichtenstein's exploded comic book ripoffs.

The risk of U2's kind of deliberate technological and conceptual overload is that the music might get lost. The band have for many years produced albums that tend to be more or less explained, after the fact, by their stage shows. *Pop*, in many ways the band's glummest recording, and featuring uncomfortable, stinging rock'n'roll about a crisis of faith, needs some explaining. But while the show puts ideas in ambitious focus, the music almost inevitably slips somewhat out of register.

On this opening night Bono seems to be saving some of that high-octane sass that should hold the whole colossus together. There are still extraordinary, unclassifiable moments, such as when a version of the Monkees' *Daydream Believer* provokes a stadium-wide singalong. But for every such occasion of celebration with one of the older, less ambivalent tunes — such as the closing anthem *One* — there is the bracing cold shower of a scathingly misanthropic song like *Miami*.

Presumably, if the tunes are too disturbing, fans can always goof off into the pixelated depths of the video screen. Indeed, with PopMart it is more tempting than ever to keep your eyes on the screen, rather than the little people dancing before it. When their backdrop features a cinerama of oozing "generative art" by Brian Eno, animated Keith Haring graffiti and an hermaphrodite belly dancer the size of a skyscraper, it is going to be hard for a flesh and blood pop band to make an impression.

Loss in the gloss

Take 6
Festival Hall

THE voices are wonderful; if only the songs were half as interesting. If Take 6, that personable sextet of Seventh Day Adventist singers, truly represent the new wave of American gospel music, then the tradition is — as many traditionalists argue — passing through a fallow period.

This, though, was as much an informal religious gathering as a concert. If their audience goes home in a state of rapture — as it clearly did at the South Bank — then nothing else should matter. But the nagging feeling remains that the a cappella group is selling itself short.

It is probably unfair to blame them for that. If much of contemporary R&B has exchanged distinctive melody for an anodyne, pre-programmed backbeat, then contemporary church music is likely to do the same in order to attract young listeners who don't know their Fugees from their Roberta Flack.

Still, there were flourishes of rare virtuosity. Their imitation of a cymbal-snapping, swing-era jam session belonged to a style of showmanship perfected by the venerable Golden Gate Quartet. *You Don't Have to be Afraid* produced some of the most impassioned ensemble work of the evening.

The occasional addition of backing tracks proved a mild distraction, although not as intrusive as the slick production values of their new album, *Brothers*. When they briefly put the ornate, airbrushed harmonising to one side, the group was capable of rousing, inspirational anthems. Otherwise it was a question of wading through bland Sunday school sentiments and contrived LA-style patter. Much is made of the singers' jazz credentials, exemplified by a clever re-creation of Miles Davis's *All Blues*, muted horn and all. But Bobby McFerrin does that kind of thing with more panache — and there is only one of him.

CLIVE DAVIS

Fame from kids

Miracles
Albert Hall

WHY IS Notting Hill so hip? Of the ten West London boroughs participating in last Thursday night's gala evening performed by and celebrating the city's youth, it was the sassy kids of Ladbroke Grove who stole the show. Their teenage songstresses could out-Whitney Whitney Houston and their dancing troupe would put most professional dancers to shame.

Of the other boroughs, Wandsworth combined a heavy jungle sound track with an energetic mass dance, and close-harmony ripples of gorgeous gospel from Brent's glamorous Foster sisters were drowned in applause. South Acton's Bollo Bridge youth club had devised a set in which strong female vocalists and rapping boys took turns in the spotlight, but were let down by a faulty sound system. On that huge stage the big sets worked best and Westminster was wise to wheel on a full cast from its recent production of *Bugsy Malone* — a small group from Harrow had to shout to make its baffling philosophical sketch heard.

Between each number Mark Stephenson and London Musici ripped through a burst of American cops and robbers music. Without Stephenson's vision there would have been no event, but his orchestra seemed less and less central to the action as the evening wore on.

Finally, Paul Gladstone-Reid's new "mystery opera", *Miracles*, switched effortlessly between pop, soul, bel canto, show tune and rap, using a choir, orchestra, African drums, a rock band and the Albert Hall's organ.

As a rock oratorio it was highly enjoyable, not least because of Sheron Wray's lively choreography. As an opera it was fatally lacking in plot. What Gladstone-Reid should do now is find a story and write a big-time musical. A mammoth chorus line is ready and waiting in West London.

HELEN WALLACE

OPERA & BALLET

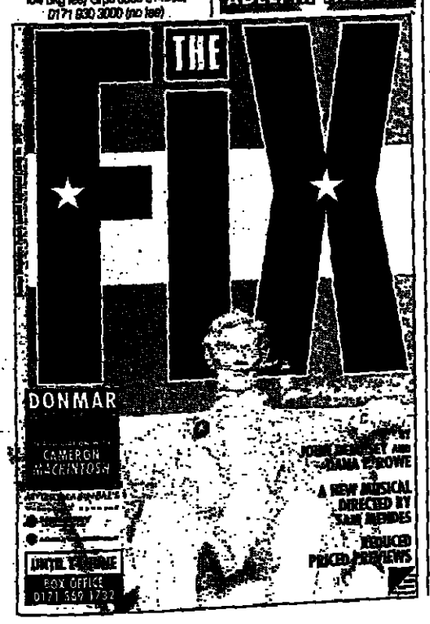
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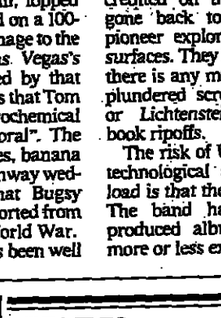
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Why whites need a good grievance

Quentin Letts says it's time to whine about the special relationship

American academics gathered recently at the University of California's Berkeley campus for the first American conference on "whiteness" studies. This new branch of scholarship, which earnestly applies itself to "white" cultural phenomena such as gun shows, bluegrass music and Appalachian coal miners' Spam and sour mash diets, is the inevitable progression of the various ethnic studies courses already so well established in America.

Any ambitious American university nowadays offers freshmen a baffling range of scholastic choices. There will be Afro-American literature, a Jewish-American history department, a school of women's studies, perhaps an Asian-American faculty. There will probably be optional seminars on Native American music, Hispanic poetry, Polynesian-American art, and Inuit-American traditions. Many courses are viewed by students as soft options, but in these days of mandatory multi-culturalism no one dare dissent. A friend who teaches at a Mid-Western university explained: "Sure, we all know it is a farce. But even if you have tenure you cannot tell the truth about ethnic studies."

It was either going to be "whiteness" or one-legged-Mexican-American studies next, and the whiteness lot got there first. As *The Wall Street Journal* reported last week, whiteness studies is at present mainly the study of America's "white underclass subculture" — in other words, the rednecks. There has, however, been some study of the whiteness of the oil dynasties around Houston, Texas, the "whiteness of shopping" and the "virtually white world of the Internet". When people use the net, allegedly, they tend to expect the person on the other end of the computer line to be white and male, and to be surprised if she is not.

Whiteness studies are, for the time being, chiefly the domain of guilt-stricken white intellectuals who feel they need to examine the vast grouping of non-dark-skinned humanity which they view as being the root of much evil. As one woman told the Berkeley conference, white culture must be properly identified so that an "action plan" can be assembled to fight "white privilege". When directed to such aims, whiteness studies become little more than an extension of black studies. But this need not be the case for long. White Americans, and their European cousins, could easily take hold of whiteness studies. They are the ethnic group being examined, so what would be more natural than to declare it their own, with a loud yelp about "pride in our heritage"?

The only way to fight political correctitude, the grip of which on the American establishment can not be exaggerated, is *reductio ad absurdum*: employ the argot of protest and turn it on itself. Posing as interested, thoroughly committed students, we should surge aboard the whiteness studies and, with a merry tweak or two, turn it to our advantage.

In my pleasurable duties reporting from New York for *The Times*, I have tried, occasionally, to illustrate to British readers the extent to which ethnic subsets are taking over American political and intellectual life. It is a pattern which may very seriously damage Britain's relationship with the United States in the forthcoming decades, but which has been consistently ignored in London and by ever-tolerant Wasp Americans.

The process usually begins with grand-sounding groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (the black power group), the Anti-Defamation League (the Jewish group) and the Ancient Order of Hibernians (the Irish group). All have creditable official goals, which are usually to reduce prejudice, hatred, intolerance and so forth. From there, they move to the celebration of national days: the exuberant parades that seem to course up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue every week, whether it be Puerto Ricans or Greeks or Armenians.

In the usual scheme of things, some smaller, more politically agitated interest groups then arise, whose disjointed efforts sometimes call to mind the rival militia groups lampooned in Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. In New York's Jewish community, for instance, the action groups scuttling around in search of recruits include: American Academics for Israel's Future, the Free Middle East Network, the Christian Israel Public Action Campaign, Israel Action Alliance, the Emergency Committee for the Rebuilding of the Jewish Community of Argentina, the Queens Coalition Against Anti-Semitism, Women for Israel's Tomorrow . . . Well, you get the point.

Groups such as these tend to be terrific leafleters and pamphleteers. They also complain, vociferously, whenever they perceive a slight to "their" people. The result is that American politicians, particularly crowd-pleasers such as President Clinton, are keenly sensitive to this ethnic grievance industry. So the groups demand places at the table, secure themselves funding, and start to determine the agenda.

No one does this effectively in America for Britain. There are genteel outfits such as the English Speaking Union, whose members have a nostalgic fondness for the Empire and Churchill, but there is no one fighting in America's ethnic trenches for our culture and our political interests.

Last year there was a tentative proposal in New York for some Anglo-Americans to form a political action group that would seek to remind American politicians that a decent number of voters hail from the English West Country. It never got off the ground, alas, because the people involved were too busy; but the idea was sound.

It was suggested that St George's Day should be marked by an Anglo-American parade up Fifth Avenue, with the marchers wearing bowler hats and carrying furled umbrellas. When bombs erupted in Jerusalem, New York's Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani — aware of the Jewish vote — rushed to Israel to show "solidarity". When bombs erupted in London, why didn't he take the next British Airways flight to London? The Anglo-American group, had it ever come into being, might have asked that question with a show of indignation. It might also have stamped hard on the anti-Britishness to be found in newspapers such as New York's *Daily News*, in which an Irish-American columnist called Denis Hamill recently complained that he had been assigned jury duty on St Patrick's Day. The only thing that brightened him up, he said, was that he might get to sit in judgment on a "Brit defendant". Had the article been written about a Jewish defendant or a black defendant, Mr Hamill would have been torn limb from limb by the ethnic grievance industry.

By 2020, the United States may well have a President Rodriguez or a President Tzu. Washington DC may no longer look automatically to Western Europe for allies. Nato may no longer interest her, and she may well be concentrating instead on solving the problems of South America or the Far East. One very good way for Europeans — and particularly the British — to try to stop that happening would be to seize on the ethnic grievance industry, to grasp ridiculous levers such as whiteness studies, and to complain in a shrill and persistent voice that we are victims. It is the only cry that modern America understands.

Tony Blair offers the very stuff of politics, the elixir of hope. Unfortunately, it may evaporate

Victory at last for the social democrats

William Rees-Mogg

Presumably Tony Blair is going to be the next Prime Minister. However much one mistrusts the polls, and although there are still many undecided voters, it now seems that the question is how large Labour's majority will be. My personal sympathies are not against him. I have known all the Labour leaders since Attlee, and Tony Blair seems, along with Hugh Gaitskell, to be the best of them. He has shown political skill and toughness in converting the old Labour Party to social democracy. He is himself a social democrat rather than a socialist, and a right-wing social democrat at that. I have not found the Tories' personal attacks on him at all convincing, except on pensions. There, I think he must have known that the Labour accusation was not the truth; that is a pity, as I would like to have thought him above that. Yet I find him a sympathetic figure.

I also see the arguments for new Labour. There is, after 18 years, a natural desire for a change of government. Taking the period as a whole, the Conservatives have great achievements, but there have been bad mistakes, such as the handling of the 1990s recession. They now look as though they have used up their ideas and energy. Their stance on Europe may be greatly preferable to Labour's — I think it is — but John Major's own European policy has not been satisfactory from any point of view. New Labour offers some new hope, and hope is the elixir of politics.

Yet I worry, and I think most people do. In Scotland I found that Tony Blair had little personal popularity. Scotland has a social-democratic tradition, but with cultural differences. Scottish opinion was much more comfortable with John Smith than with Tony Blair as leader of the Labour party. Mr Blair has said that the issue comes down to one of trust; he probably enjoys more trust among Tory voters in South-East England than among Labour voters in Scotland. From that point of view, Labour's campaign has not been a success; Tony Blair seems to have won the election, but many voters have not warmed to him. Indeed there seems to be more warmth in public feeling for John Major, though not for his party.

The parallel with Bill Clinton is not reassuring. Like President Clinton, Tony Blair has both professionalised and depoliticised politics. He has spent the last three years eliminating the negative elements in his party's image, just as Clinton did. Labour's campaign has been a triumph for public relations, but has not revealed either what the party's core beliefs are, nor what policies are likely to be implemented in government. In personal terms, the parallel is unjust: Bill Clinton has far too many criminal associates, and Tony Blair is a man of integrity. In political terms, there is the same dangerous attitude, that appearances decide elections. The aggressive discipline imposed from the centre has made this worse. I am also worried by Mr Blair's so-called "modernism". He says he is a "modern" man, that he enjoys the now rather old-fashioned Beatles music, that he has played in a gig, and that sort of thing. Modernism has very little to do with time; there have been modernists around at least since the age of the Romantic poets. Shelley was a modernist. It is not a question of period, but of point of view, and the modernist view has often proved inadequate and detached from the real issues of life. The modernist and progressive culture of London tends to be self-regarding and élitist, more élitist than most Tories. New Labour shares this cultural superficiality; it reminds me of the soup Jane Austen wrote of in *Emma*: "a broth of nice smooth gruel, thin, but not too thin". Intellectually, the Blair campaign has been insubstantial.

But there are more important worries. Social democracy tries to straddle two political theories. Adam Smith Conservatives, such as Margaret Thatcher, believe that society advances by liberating the useful energies of individuals. "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest." Socialists, on the contrary, believe that the state should tax, regulate and provide. Social Democrats sometimes seem to believe in one theory and sometimes in the other, and, while they pretend to both, they lack a ruling principle. This is however both the strength and the weakness of social democracy. It seems to offer voters socialism without taxes, and markets without competition; it is a good way to win votes but a poor way to govern.

One can see this from a Thatcherite perspective. The Conservative Governments of 1951-64 were, in reality, social democratic administrations, believing in a mixed economy of socialism and free enterprise. They cost Britain a generation of economic growth, by failing to tackle the issues of deregulation, privatisation, taxation and trade union power that Margaret Thatcher dealt with in the 1980s. Tony Blair promises to preserve these reforms, and to that limited extent he is a Thatcherite. But old Labour voted against every one of them; no one can suppose that new Labour would have carried a single one of them through, any more than the Conservative social democrats did in the 1950s. A Blair government promises not to reverse the Thatcher reforms, but it will not carry them further.

There are also doubts about a party that promises to rebuild the health and education services without increasing the planned public expenditure or raising the marginal rate of tax. On this, the Liberal Democrats are right. Whenever a party claims to be able to do more without spending more, or to spend more without taxing more, there must be a catch. Tony Blair says that new Labour will have a Tory expenditure policy and a Tory taxation policy but a new Labour health and education policy. How can that possibly be achieved?

The same problem arises over Europe. Tony Blair says that Labour will not be isolated in Europe; new Labour will stand up for British interests; new Labour may or may not join the single currency; new Labour will not take Britain into a European superstate. I have been a critic of Tory policy on Europe, but new Labour's policy is grotesque, no more than a jumble of contradictions. It is impossible to know what its European policy will be. The fact is that Germany and France are determined to create a European superstate; the single currency is part of that plan; we do not know what Tony Blair will do about the single currency; he will not even allow his candidates to discuss it. Either the Eurosceptics or the Eurofanatics are about to be swindled.

When he arrives in Downing Street next Friday, the new Prime Minister will find that he has created expectations he cannot fulfil. He has spent the election reassuring the Right; now he has started to reassure the Left. He told *The Observer*: "I want the Left to realise that if we win this election, we will have done so without ceding any ground that cannot be recovered. I am going to be a lot more radical in government than many people think." What did this mean? It must mean that he has not ceded any left-wing ground "that cannot be recovered", and that he intends to be "radical" in a left-wing sense.

I am sure the Left will not trust these implausible assurances, so why does he make them? Already something very important has been lost. If you do not tell the voters what you intend to do, you cannot get a mandate from them to do it. That is the inner failure of an outwardly successful campaign. If the issue is trust, as Tony Blair says, new Labour has disappointingly refused to earn it.

How much will change?

Don't expect a new Jerusalem, says **Peter Riddell**. Fresh battle lines are being drawn



Thursday's election is in danger of being misinterpreted. The probable outcome of a large Labour victory, only the third clearcut win in the party's history, is being widely seen as a critical turning-point. For the Centre-Left, if not the old Left, it will be trumpeted as the dawn of a new progressive era, while, for the Tory Right, it will be presented as marking the rejection of the vacillations and betrayals of Majorism. A Labour landslide would certainly be dramatic, but it may not of itself represent a sea change in the direction of British politics.

Most elections which change governments are, at the time, more to do with the past than the future. The electorate's verdict is usually conditional and looks significant later only if the direction of policy really changes. We now look back on 1906 and 1979 as landmark elections because of later battles and achievements.

This election has been less about a choice of different policies than about the credibility of two alternative governing parties. It is about time for a change, not a crusade for a new Jerusalem. The Conservatives no longer look electable, while for the first in more than two decades, Labour does. A majority of the public is fed up with the Conservatives, but, crucially, no longer fears that Labour threatens its economic wellbeing.

Indeed, the Conservatives have got the better of Labour on many of the main economic arguments — for instance, over whether it will be possible to improve health and education within existing tight spending constraints, and over privatisation. But much to the Tories' frustration, the public is no longer afraid of Labour. Warnings about a July Budget, spending "black holes" and future tax rises no longer have the power to win back wavering voters.

The campaign itself has probably made little difference. The elaborate planning and pretentions of Labour's war-room in Millbank have done wonders for the self-esteem and employment prospects of those involved, but have probably mattered only in preventing some of the mishaps of past campaigns — valuable in enforcing self-discipline, but not crucial.

Similarly, among the Conservatives the open defiance of the leadership line on a single currency by so many candidates, and the manoeuvring by future leadership contenders have obscured the party's economic message, but have merely reinforced the existing impressions of disunity. All this may have made the Tories' position worse, but it will not have altered the outcome. A sudden decision to rule out membership of a single currency would not have won the election, but probably just highlighted the splits. The election has been decided over the past five years rather than the past five weeks.

Yet the campaign has mattered in a more negative sense. Labour has fought on a safety-first platform. It has accepted the Government's spending plans for the next two years as well as most of the main changes of the Tory years. Any commitments have been very limited and incremental. Mr Blair argues that in time the radicalism he has shown in transforming the Labour Party will also be shown in government. Meanwhile, he had no choice but to pursue a campaign of reassurance, in view of continuing public doubts about the party's attitudes on tax, spending and the unions. But Labour has, in the process, narrowed the political debate and its own room for manoeuvre in office. It risks being accused of betrayal if it raises taxes or squeezes spending on public spending. In that respect, the Liberal Democrats have stood alone in their candour about the real spending and tax options.

In electoral terms, Labour's strategists are right. The public wants to get rid of the Conservatives, but not their policies, and it does not believe that Labour has a magic answer. A majority of the public doubts whether Labour will be able to keep all of its promises. The most revealing polling statistic of the campaign was not about voting intentions but about the economy, in the MORI poll for *The Times* last Thursday. Nearly half of the public thinks that the Government has built strong foundations for economic recovery, against two-fifths in 1992; but some 28 per cent now also think it is time for a change of government. More than a quarter of the public therefore accepts the Tories' economic case but no longer believes that they should be in office. That is why they will lose.

But this is a double-edged verdict for both parties. Many on the Tory Right can hardly wait until 10pm on Thursday before blaming John Major for betraying "true" Conservative principles, particularly on Europe, and starting to push the party in a more nationalist, free-market direction. But the Conservatives' problem is not their policies but themselves, their inability to act in a unified and consistent fashion.

So to conclude from defeat on Thursday that the party should charge off to the right could be as grievous an error as Labour made when it swung to the left in the early 1980s. In the past, the Conservatives' desire for power has acted as a rapid corrective, but the malaise is so serious now, that the party may have to go through very damaging convulsions first.

A Labour victory after so long will, of course, change the political mood and open up fresh possibilities. But a big majority should not be confused with a mandate for radical change. Labour has campaigned on a cautious, and often vague, platform and, as Mr Blair well knows, its first priority in office will be to show that it can govern competently.

Only if it succeeds will Labour be able to develop support for more radical changes. Whatever the size of majority on Thursday, it will be a long time before we will know whether the 1997 election was as decisive as 1979 later turned out to be, or was a short-lived triumph like 1966. That depends not just on how Labour performs in office, but on how quickly the Tories come to their senses in opposition.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Wrongfooted

THERE were hard hearts at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel last week when Michael Foot, now 83, turned up to seek refuge there during a bomb-scare, with Dizzy, his 17-year-old Tibetan terrier named after Disraeli.

Foot had taken Dizzy out on the hustings around Lancaster Gate, west London, gallantly canvassing for new Labour, when news of the possible bomb reached him. He decided that it would be sensible to take refuge in the hotel and pitched up at the front door.

The porter at the door took a look at Foot, then glanced at Dizzy, who returned the compliment. But when the former Labour leader asked gently whether they would be allowed in to rest for a short while, the imperious little doorman remarked that this would be more than his job was worth. Dogs, he explained, were not allowed in, whatever the circumstances and whoever the owner.

Foot turned away disconsolately with Dizzy at heel, and took his rest on the hotel steps. "It was utterly ridiculous," he said afterwards, "but I don't want to speak on the matter." Foot now plans to boycott the establishment, and is apparently urging others to do likewise.



The great outsider

THE TIMES DIARY

● *Sir Clement Freud has changed his mind about the inscription he wants on his tombstone. Instead of "He never insulted anybody unintentionally", he now wants "Best Before . . ." followed by the date of his passing.*

In the air

REHEARSALS FOR the English National Ballet's *Swan Lake* at the Royal Albert Hall in June have proved testing for the artistic director, Derek Deane, who is a regular walker of Princess Margaret.

To accommodate his cast of 125 girls — the ballet is billed as the biggest ever produced — Deane has rented a Territorial Army barracks on the outskirts of the City. He now has to direct affairs perched precariously at the top of a 20ft ladder, though he regrets that he is unable to prance about along with his cast.

Distaff side

THE LATEST skirmish in the battle of the sexes is being fought in the heraldry offices of Dublin Castle. Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland, has been awarded the first politically correct coat of arms by the Irish Chief Herald. She receives her arms in the shape of a shield, a design formerly reserved for men.

In Ireland, as in England and Scotland, women are usually awarded a diamond escutcheon, but in December last year the Chief Herald in Dublin felt that this discrimination was no longer acceptable. Fergus Gillespie, the Deputy Chief Herald, said: "They've got a thing over here called women's lib, and so we thought we would change the rules to show willing."

Sympatico

JUST a week after the Tories demanded that Labour's theme tune, *Things Can Only Get Better*, be removed from the BBC's omnibus edition of *EastEnders*, their own party anthem is to be broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Bantock's *Celtic Symphony*, the official Conservative tune, will be played for a full 20 minutes on Monday morning's episode of *On Air*.

"We decided on the programme before we realised that the *Celtic Symphony* had been adopted by the Tories," a Radio 3 spokesman says. "It is too late to change our plans now to suit Labour."



"The polls are still in our favour"

Iris bloomer

TOP MODELS have never earned so little. Iris Palmer, whose aristocratic scowl can earn her up to £10,000 a day, has just accepted the position of editor-at-large of *Cheap Date*, an amateur fashion magazine specialising in second-hand clothes. Her duties include commissioning articles and modelling charity shop frocks. Among her similarly well-connected staff will be Minnie Weiss, sister of the actress Rachel, and the aspiring Mills & Boon novelist Bella Shand.

An insider reveals that Miss Palmer's pay packet will be "nominal" but says that she has settled in well to her new offices — a grubby kitchenette in Notting Hill, west London.



Iris: amateur role

P·H·S

SCEPTICAL VOTERS

Still time to cross-examine candidates on Europe

To no one's surprise, but at neither Mr Major's or Mr Blair's initial behest, Britain's relationship with its European partners has become a dominant issue in this election campaign. While the Tory and Labour leaders have fought to make education or the constitution the battleground two other men have made the weather. Paul Sykes and Jacques Santer have ensured that Europe has become the election issue whose salience has risen most in the public mind. The scale of Conservative dissent, with hundreds of candidates saying no to EMU, and the scale of continental ambition, with no alternative entertained to further integration, has prompted voters motivated by Europe to ask who they should support. That process of questioning is wise and necessary. In the days remaining it should be conducted with even greater intensity.

Both parties have articulated their policy in the tones of a Churchill while the detail is closer to Chamberlain. To help cut through the verbal camouflage we print on pages 10 and 11 a guide to how a Eurosceptic might wish to cast his or her ballot. The guide could, equally well, be employed by an enthusiast for integration to identify like-minded candidates. Because of the convergence bordering on collusion which marks the approach towards the single currency of the Labour and Tory leaderships it is important that voters should have a proper chance to know what their individual candidates believe.

As the guide makes clear, such an exercise is not easy. Tory candidates have responded to the offer of financial support from Mr Sykes and the shifting mood in the country by inserting codicils, some quite dubious, into their election testaments. The voter should be rightly wary of those candidates who cannot "foresee" Britain entering a single currency at the moment. Pledges such as those should be tested more closely. It was by such an equivocation that Michael Heseltine masked his ambition, claiming he could not foresee the circumstances in which he might challenge Mrs Thatcher. Circumstances change, principles do not.

If anything, it is more difficult to know the real beliefs of Labour candidates. When it comes to Europe they are like characters in a new *Dunciad*: "universal darkness covers all". Some have, by past affiliation, clear form. A very few others, such as Denzil Davies, are not ashamed to proclaim their position on the hustings. Most Labour candidates, however, have refrained from sharing with the voters their views on the most momentous decision Britain will have to face since the war. Labour's leader has argued there are "formidable obstacles" to be overcome before Britain enters a single currency but those obstacles seem, again, to be matters of external circumstance, not internal principle.

Both leaderships have made feints and thrusts on the European question. Their real intentions and the disposition of many footsoldiers is yet still uncertain. Voters, armed with our guide, should challenge their candidates, find out what their genuine views are and ask for principled commitments. All candidates should be encouraged to declare their hands. The party machines do not wish to be bound, but the voters should not have to choose blind.

HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN

Lessons from Clinton to Blair

Elections are sometimes best seen through the eyes of foreigners. The host of US correspondents covering this contest have been struck by the similarities between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton. The parallels are hardly original and have, at times, been encouraged by the Labour leadership. But the disillusionment with Mr Clinton felt by the US press has meant that Mr Blair's imitation has not led to flattering comments.

The Blair-Clinton kinship has also been much overstated. There are differences between the two systems of government, political circumstances and the personalities concerned. Despite that, the polished character and thin content of the Labour campaign has made the Clinton comparison irresistible. In his interview with *The Times* last week, Mr Blair himself noted by way of defence that President Clinton had at least been re-elected.

In this election Labour has been supremely cautious, embracing relatively small policy proposals and rejecting its tax-and-spend past. It has targeted the middle-class and remained remorselessly "on message". The image has been carefully honed and it has created the charge that traditional constituencies have been abandoned. Such a strategy clearly echoes Mr Clinton's second-term formula.

The Arkansas Democrat was far more ambitious when he first sought office. Then Governor Clinton favoured an energetic economic plan based on a $220 billion programme of state-sponsored high technology investments. He promised a fundamental reform of the American health care system. He pledged radical change in the welfare system. These were specific objectives if vague in their details. The agenda was certainly distinctive from that regularly presented by his party. But it was far from incremental.

Once elected, President Clinton confronted the realities of the American Constitution. A powerful Congress and a divided Democratic Party asserted their supremacy. A disillusioned public ensured a Republican landslide in 1994. A chastened Mr Clinton, influenced by Dick Morris his new pollster, charged to the centre ground and embraced low-calorie conservatism in 1996. That shift, combined with the excessive zeal of Newt Gingrich, brought its rewards.

Mr Blair, assuming an overall majority on May 1, would face no such institutional obstacles. The House of Commons would be compliant, his parliamentary troops mostly passive, and he would be excused a rendezvous with the ballot box for five years. No American President has such advantages. Yet the Labour manifesto is much closer to the second Clinton effort: a document that was predominantly devoid of vision and fashioned by defeat in 1994.

The Labour leader believes that he has learnt from Mr Clinton. His associates would argue that while the President campaigned as a "New Democrat" in 1992 he became an "Old Democrat" in the Oval Office. Americans felt cheated and voted for a conservative Congress. But another interpretation is truer. Mr Clinton attempted a "New Democrat" agenda from the start: fiscal responsibility, free trade, and a mixed state-market approach to social issues.

He failed because the "New Democrat" formula had such shallow intellectual and political foundations. It may be neither "Old Left" nor "New Right" but negatives alone do not create a coherent philosophy or a base in the country. In the end it could not deliver. That is why Mr Clinton eventually retreated into electoral opportunism. Many spurious Anglo-American comparisons will doubtless be offered in the final days of campaigning that remain but the fate of the New Democrats is still one that should preoccupy Mr Blair and new Labour.

DREAMING MINARETS

Oxford and Islam should learn from each other

The proposal by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies to build a mosque in the centre of the ancient city will provoke heated debate among architects. Will a minaret be out of place in the panorama of dreaming spires? Should the site, on the edge of Magdalen deer park, be preserved as one of the last open green field areas in the city? Or could a synthesis of Moorish and Gothic bring to Oxford the beauty of Venice and the Alhambra, both blends of East and West?

Academically the new centre will also be under scrutiny. The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies was founded five years ago with generous funding by Saudi Arabia and Brunei to promote the study of Islam in Britain. Its aim, to act as a bridge between Western scholarship and more than a million Muslims now living in Britain, has been warmly supported by the Prince of Wales, who delivered his celebrated eulogy of Islam at its inauguration. Since then the centre has held a series of academic conferences, attracted a nucleus of reputable scholars, begun a publishing programme and funded a Prince of Wales Chair for the Study of the Islamic World. The question is not whether Britain needs such a centre; such intellectual recognition of the largest minority faith in this country is overdue. More to the point, will the centre encourage the freedom of thought and dispassionate analysis that are rare in the Muslim world and anathema in Saudi Arabia, its main sponsor? And if so, is Oxford the right place?

The university should have no hesitation in embracing the centre. The study of Arabic and Islam has a long and honourable tradition in Britain, and for centuries Oxford has been pre-eminent in this field. Indeed, the university owes more to Islam than most of its students or scholars may realise. Not only is the typical college modelled on similar walled gardens of learning that flourished in the East; but it was Muslims who for all the centuries of Europe's Dark Ages preserved and enriched the ancient learning that was rediscovered in the century when the first Oxford colleges were founded. Indeed, Gibbon, in one of his rare flights of historical speculation, declared that had Charles Martel not defeated the Saracens at Poitiers in 732 "the Arabian fleet might have sailed without a naval combat into the mouth of the Thames. Perhaps the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford".

It is also important for the future of Islam in Britain and abroad that what looks set to become an influential research centre should be in a city such as Oxford. The West has watched with concern the rise of Islamic political extremism in countries such as Algeria, Iran and Afghanistan, where the values and enlightenment of Islamic learning have been extinguished by fanaticism, obscurantism and ignorance. If an Islamic renaissance, absorbing and synthesising modern learning and technology, is to enrich the religion's one billion adherents there are few more conducive cities than Oxford. Here, at last, the Christian cloister and mosque courtyard can rediscover their intellectual as well as architectural affinities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Academics opt for change on May 1

From Dr David Halpern and others

Sir, Party splits and negative campaigning have been the focus of the current election campaign. But it is extremely important that these do not obscure the real issues at stake:

Do the constitution and the machinery of government need reforming?

Do we need a higher priority on investment in education, training and on the active creation of opportunities for the unemployed?

Do we believe that there is an essential role for the State in ensuring certain types of universal provision, such as for healthcare and environmental protection?

Should our strategy towards Europe be one of constructive engagement?

We believe that the answer to these questions is "yes". Considered change in these areas is essential for the future prosperity and regeneration of Britain, and for this we need a change of government. We come from diverse fields of policy and academia and will be voting for and supporting such a change on May 1. We hope that reflecting on the issues will bring others to do the same.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HALPERN
(University of Cambridge),
DAVID CURRIE
(London Business School),
RICHARD DAWKINS
(University of Oxford),
ANTHONY GIDDENS
(Director, LSE),
JONI LOVENDUSKI
(Southampton University),
QUENTIN SKINNER
(University of Cambridge),
Cambridge University,
Faculty of Social and
Political Sciences,
8 Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BA.
April 25.

Silicone implants

From Mr Simon Kay

Sir, Dr Stuttaford does women a service (Body and Mind, April 17) in highlighting the benefit of breast reconstruction after mastectomy and of augmentation following spontaneous loss of breast tissue. Given the history of many "failed" innovations in implant technology, however, I would have preferred a more cautious appraisal of Trilucent implants, whose increased radiolucency allows more accurate mammography.

Following the "silicone scare" of recent years a number of new designs for breast implants have appeared, and yet research conducted in many Western countries has failed to show convincingly — the problems with mammography aside — any serious or significant risk associated with the conventional silicone implants. Britain has taken a particularly responsible view of this matter, monitoring the use of such implants and analysing the huge amount of research data now available on the issue of safety.

This has not stopped the welcome development of new implants and, in the case of Trilucent, marketing directly to the public. Patients now commonly insist upon receiving this implant in the belief, apparently shared by Dr Stuttaford, that an implant filled with oil prepared from soya must be safer than one filled with silicone, soya oil being a biodegradable foodstuff.

The truth is that we will not know for a number of years whether these implants are totally resistant to bacterial growth or, more importantly perhaps, to fungal growth, or how in the long term their leakage will compare with other products and whether there might be an unsuspected consequence of contact with soya bean oil at body temperature over many years.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON KAY
(Consultant in plastic and reconstructive surgery),
Bupa Hospital,
Roundhay Hall, Jackson Avenue,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
April 18.

Church welcome

From Mrs Susan M. Barnard

Sir, I read with interest Mrs Jane Haworth's letter (April 22) concerning the Church of England and in particular her observation that only confirmed members of the Church can participate fully in Holy Communion.

I have often wondered why this should be so. It is particularly unfortunate that the minimum recommended age for confirmation in the Church of England (11) all too often coincides with the time when youngsters (hitherto raised on a diet of compulsory Sunday school) lose interest in church attendance.

The Church of England might do well to consider the system practised by the Roman Catholic Church, where first Communion and confirmation are completely separate ceremonies. Roman Catholic children receive their first Communion at the age of seven or thereabouts, and hence are able to participate fully in the service of Holy Communion from a much younger (and more impressionable) age than their Anglican counterparts.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN M. BARNARD,
4 Egerton Drive,
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire.
April 22.

Business warned against Labour

From Lord Sheppard of Didgemere and others

Sir, Through your newspaper we wish to send a message to Britain's younger managers and business people.

With global markets, the competition you face today is tougher than it was in the Sixties and Seventies. The difference between success and failure is frighteningly small but determines jobs and living standards. However, you have a major advantage now that we did not have then — a business climate which enables you to run your operations effectively.

Twenty years ago enterprise had been suffocated by socialist dogma: being a manager or earning a profit was frowned upon. "They" always knew better. Managers were so preoccupied dealing with the unions and shop stewards that they often forgot to involve their fellow employees.

It took a great effort from everyone and four Conservative Governments to restore the spirit of enterprise fully and make our businesses competitive again in world markets. During that period overseas attitudes towards us moved from sympathy to emulation.

We want you to look forward and to keep winning for Britain — however we can all learn from history. The Labour Party may claim to help business but in reality, with its interventionist and over-regulatory attitudes, it has and will always handicap management.

On May 1 you have a choice: you can either take a chance with Britain's hard-won success or you can trust the party which has proven its belief in enterprise. Not the most difficult decision you will face this year — but certainly the most important.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN SHEPPARD,
MICHAEL EDWARDES,
HANSON,
STANLEY KALMS,
KING of WARTNABY,
IAN MacLAURIN,
20 Cockspur Street, SW1.
April 25.

Immigration as an election issue

From Mr David Coleman

Sir, Your articles on race and immigration as election issues (April 18) gave a fair and balanced treatment of a complex situation. I was surprised, however, that more was not made of the fact that immigration has generally been increasing in recent years and that over the past decade the UK has become a net importer of people.

The Home Office figures which you cite of 55,480 "acceptances for settlement" in 1995 relate mostly to people who actually arrived in previous years. They also take no account of the large number of immigrants (UK citizens among them) each year who were "not accepted for settlement", nor of the many emigrants leaving the country.

The estimates of gross and net migration flows given by the International Passenger Survey, which are those used for official data and projections, also show an upward trend. Even so, they undercount net immigration to the UK (by an average of 20,000 people per year) by omitting the "visitor switches" — ie, those who enter on various short-term pretexts and stay here by subsequently claiming asylum or by marriage. When these figures are taken into account, net immigration increases from about 55,000 in 1984 to 106,000 in 1994.

Even that figure excludes those asylum claimants (about a third of the total) who claim asylum at the point of entry to the UK. Most claimants and their dependants are believed to remain here, even though most claims are rejected as unfounded. Less than one in ten is removed or is known to leave. They too should be added to immigration figures on any commonsense basis.

Two further points are relevant. Labour's proposals, confirmed in their manifesto, to make immigration easier for purposes of marriage and to scrap recent legislation on asylum claiming have attracted surprisingly little interest. We should recall, as the election approaches, that citizens of Commonwealth countries who live in the UK (and Irish citizens) retain the right to vote in UK national elections without becoming British citizens first — a privilege which has no parallel in mainland Europe.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COLEMAN,
University of Oxford,
Department of Applied Social Studies and Social Research,
Barnett House,
Wellington Square, Oxford.
April 18.

Chips with everything

From Eur Ing William Neil

Sir, In his letter today Professor Emeritus Rose-Innes claims that the silicon chip has made "a very large contribution to unemployment". I too am an electrical engineer and would point out that it has created more jobs than it has destroyed, in the same way that the motor car created more jobs than were lost in the horse and stagecoach industry.

There are millions more people in jobs today than there were 40 years ago, and the number of engineering graduates coming out of our universities compared with 1957 is several orders of magnitude higher.

Any "downsizing" which has taken place in the ex-nationalised industries was long overdue, and was a result of work by efficient managers who had had the dead hand of the Civil Service removed from them. Some companies, such as BT, clearly require fewer technicians because of the chip, but the growth of jobs with alternative telecom suppliers far outweighs those lost.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM NEIL,
1 Conisboro Avenue,
Caversham, Berkshire.
April 21.

From Flight Lieutenant M. Rubenstein, RAF

Sir, Professor Rose-Innes "cannot think of an industry or business where the need for manpower has not been substantially reduced by the computer and automation". I can think of two: the computer industry and the automation industry.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RUBENSTEIN,
Trenchard Hall Officers' Mess,
Royal Air Force Cranwell,
Sleaford, Lincolnshire.
April 22.

From Mr Harry Cooksley

Sir, I would suggest that my own profession, that of funeral directing, is unlikely to be challenged by either the computer or automation industry.

Microchips do not turn out at night to attend a death. Nor do they help the bereaved before, during and after a funeral when sensitive personal skills are required. They do not prepare and dress the deceased, carry the coffins, nor clean the cars.

It is true that we use computers for word-processing and accounts, but I imagine that any saving in man (or woman) power is more than offset by the need for extra lumberjacks and papermill workers to feed these machines' insatiable appetite for paper.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY COOKSLEY,
Church Farm House,
Wickham Way,
East Brent, Somerset.
April 22.

Crime and punishment

From Mr E. C. Hicks, JP

Sir, Mr J. A. Davis, former Clerk to the Kingston upon Thames justices, laments the demise of unit fines (letter, April 22). I doubt if many of his erstwhile colleagues share his views.

For those who sat on the bench, operating the system was a nightmare. We found ourselves haplessly imposing sentences which were ludicrously high or ridiculously low, which we had no discretion to vary.

Among many defects the fundamental one was that the bench could take into consideration only the defendant's means. Yet in sentencing several factors must be taken into account, means to pay being only one.

Anyone involved during the traumas of 1992-93 who still feels that the system prescribed by the 1991 Act was a success should lie down quietly in a darkened room until the feeling goes away.

Yours faithfully,
E. C. HICKS,
Scarthwaite,
Grange-in-Borrowdale,
Keswick, Cumbria.
April 23.

From Mr Geoffrey McLean

Sir, If the financial punishment for crime should be related to income, how would Messrs Fred Wachsberger (letter, April 15) and Julian Calderara (April 22) have calculated the scale of fines to which I would have been subject during the years 1987 to 1992, when my income as a Lloyd's name was negative?

Perhaps I would have received a bonus, increasing with the seriousness of my offence.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY McLEAN,
PO Box 324,
Wolverhampton WV6 7EP.
April 22.

Too many cats

From Ms Leonora Digby Smith

Sir, Surely Mr F. Paul Taylor (letter, April 25) is too hard on cats, which are only doing what comes naturally.

At least the birds they catch are free-range, unlike the millions of cruelly factory-farmed hens that are consumed by humans in this country each year.

Yours faithfully,
LEONORA DIGBY SMITH,
4a Sharpleshall Street,
Primrose Hill, NW1.
April 25.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Ex-Tories' at home with Lib Dems

From Miss Emma Nicholson and others

Sir, Many people who have traditionally supported the Conservative Party are very unhappy at the prospect of doing so at this election.

We have all left the Conservative Party during the last Parliament sickened by the slide into hysterical anti-Europeanism, by an unworthy tolerance of sleaze and by uncaring social policies.

We appeal to all Conservative voters from the One Nation tradition to vote Liberal Democrat on Thursday. We feel at home with a patriotic, non-socialist party that cares for all our people, is committed to a strong Britain in Europe, and which has campaigned on the need to invest in health and education.

When the Conservative Party relapses into deep internal schism after the election we shall need a strong united Liberal Democrat presence in the next Parliament more than ever.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA NICHOLSON,
PETER THURNHAM,
DAVID DEAR
(Councillor, Bromley),
ISOBEL FRASER
(Councillor, Milton Keynes),
PETER MULLINS (County Councillor, Buckinghamshire),
JIMMY NAIRN
(Councillor, Berwickshire),
JENNY RILEY (Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate, Wantage),
SINCLAIR WEBSTER
(Councillor, Woking),
Liberal Democrats,
Party Headquarters,
4 Cowley Street, SW1.
April 26.

Rebuke for TV

From Mr Robert Watson

Sir, A hearty welcome for the rebuke by Mr Peter Rogers, Chief Executive of the Independent Television Commission, over ITV's endless diet of soaps and drama serials (reports, April 23). Not only have *Coronation Street* and *The Bill* recently extended their coverage but the content has changed to turgid melodrama, family feuds and, in the case of the latter, rape. Both used to be light-hearted family viewing.

You also reported (later editions and see letters, April 25) a ban by major TV companies of the Prolife Alliance's election broadcast pictures of the effects of abortion. Presumably they will continue to show films depicting violence and obscenities, with inadequate warnings.

All good wishes to the ITC. Their report is a beacon in the gathering gloom.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. WATSON,
16 Riddy Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire.
April 25.

Defence of choirs

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN,

Sir, Maybe our cathedral choirs are "happily ignored by the entire population" (Richard Morrison, April 19; letter, April 25) but there are huge rewards for those who discover one of this nation's best-kept secrets.

As the privileged father of two choristers at Winchester choir school some years ago I used to come in from weeks of technological hyperactivity in a nuclear submarine in the deep, cold Atlantic to the incomparable peace and beauty of a weekday choral Evensong.

As a means of restoring normality and mental equilibrium I would strongly recommend these services to anyone caught up in the stresses of modern living. Not only is the singing beautiful, it also costs nothing to listen — which could be one reason why cathedral choirs are not more highly prized.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE
(Editor, *Jane's Fighting Ships*),
Foundry House,
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.
April 25.

Victory anthem?

From the Director of Music, Strathallan School

Sir, What about an anthem for choral Evensong on election day (letters, April 22, 23, 24)?

S. S. Wesley offers a number of possibilities, among them *Cast me not away. Thou wilt keep Him*, or even *The Wilderness*.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID G. READ,
Director of Music,
Strathallan School,
Forganderny, Perth.
April 24.

From the Parish Clerk of St Dunstan-in-the-West

Sir, Why should your correspondents assume that the Church of England has got it right on the general election when it seems to have got almost everything else wrong in the past 50 years?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID POWELL,
Parish Clerk,
St Dunstan-in-the-West,
186a Fleet Street, EC4.
April 24.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 25: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning visited the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen, and at St Lucia Barracks, Omagh, and was received by Sir David Fells (Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Mahon Road, Portadown.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Grenfell, Grenfell House, Rylands Street, Burnley, Lancashire, at 11.25; will open the new Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital, Preston Road, Chorley, at noon; and as Patron, the Butler Trust, will visit Lancaster Farms, Farm Moor Lane, Stone Row Head, off Quernmore Road, Lancaster at 3.

Imperial College

The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine announces that an agreement has been reached *in principle for the formal amalgamation of the Wynn* Institute for Metabolic Research into the Imperial College School of Medicine as the Wynn Department of Metabolic Medicine.

Royal Over-Seas League

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Over-Seas League will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday, May 6, 1997, at Over-Seas House, St James's Street, London SW1.

Radley Midsummer Ball

As part of the 150th celebrations the Ball is to be held at Radley on June 21. Please apply for further details: 01235 543103, or Fax 01235 543106.

Birthdays today

Lady Helen Taylor celebrates her 33rd birthday today.

Other birthdays include: Mr P.T. Bateman, executive chairman, *Robert Fleming Asset Management*, 51; Mr Ian Beer, former Head Master, Harrow School, 66; Professor Hugh Bentall, cardiac surgeon, 77; the Earl of Breadalbane and Holland, 78; Mr Mike *Brearley, cricketer and psycho*analyst, 55; Baroness Carnegy of Lour, 72; Sir Ivor Cohen, former chairman, Remploy, 66; Mr A.J. Colvin, Comptroller and City Solicitor, Corporation of London, 50; Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, former Director, WRNS, 70; Mr Duane Eddy, guitarist, 59; Mr Tony Ford, director, Crafts Council, 59; Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia, 73; Professor Nicola LeFanu, composer, 50; Sir John Leonard, former High Court judge, 71; Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, 73; Dr M.D. Longfield, former director, Teesside Polytechnic, 69; Mr John Madejski, chairman, Hurst Publishing, 56; Mr William Moodie, former Chief Constable, Fife, 66; Sir Dai Rees, former chief executive, Medical Research Council, 61; Dr Jeffrey Tate, conductor, 54; *Mr J.L. Thorn, former Head*master, Winchester College, 72; Mr Garry Weston, chairman, Associated British Foods, 70; Mrs Helen Williams, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 59; Mr Kenneth Williams, Chief Constable, Norfolk, 53.

Emeritus Professor Vero Wynne-Edwards

A memorial service for Emeritus Professor Vero Wynne-Edwards, CBE, LLD, MA, DSc, DUniv, FRS, FRSC, FRSE, FIBiol, Regius Professor of Natural History at the University of Aberdeen from 1946 to 1974, who died on January 5, 1997, will be held in King's College Chapel, Old Aberdeen, at noon on Monday, May 12, 1997. All friends and colleagues are invited and should be seated in the Chapel by 11.50am.

Captain Nicholas Barker, RN

For unforeseen reasons, the *thanksgiving service for Captain* Nicholas Barker, CBE, DL, RN, will now be held in Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday, June 11, at 3pm, and not All Hallows-by-the-Tower at 11am. All inquiries to Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Tel: 0171-487 5101.

Nature notes

THE last of the summer migrants are arriving in Britain. The scratchy song of the whitethroat could be heard in *many places last week as the* newly arrived males danced in the air above the hedges. The first of the lesser whitethroats are also back: their *song is a kind of chortling* rattle that carries a long way. The first house martins are appearing: they will need more rain if they are to find *the mud for building their* nests under the eaves. A few passing dotterels have been seen in fields in the south: these are dainty brown plo-



The whitethroat

vers that nest in the Scottish Highlands and very occasionally in English and Welsh mountains.

Country lanes are turning white as the sweet-smelling flowers open on the hawthorn hedges, and cow parsley comes into flower along the ditches. There are still many rosettes to open on *the lower stalks of the cow* parsley, and it will flourish well into June.

Horse-chestnut trees are like tall pyramids of white or *sometimes pink flowers; on* crab-apples, the flower petals are white above and pink beneath. Larch plantations are a radiant green from one end to the other, and there are small red female flowers growing along the twigs.

DJM

Merchant Taylors' School, Spring 1997

The following scholarships have been awarded:

11+

Faizal Patel, Buxlow Preparatory School; Adam Popeck, Buxlow Preparatory School; Nell Soneji, Reddiford Preparatory School; Faith Soneji, Reddiford Preparatory School; Andrew Tribick, Warrender Primary School; Joel Gordon, Radlett Preparatory School.

13+

Major scholarships

Lord Halley: Chirag Sanghrajka, Orley Farm.

Sir James Jeans: Joseph Ray, St Martin's.

Sir Gilbert Murray: Jamie Dannhauser, Orley Farm.

Morley: Adam Baylis-West, St John's; Andrew Jameel Kassam, St Martin's.

Minor scholarships

Malyn: Michael Peel, St Martin's; Alexander Bloch, St Martin's; Guy Edwards, St Martin's; Mark Hobbs, Orley Farm; Sarfaraz Merali, St *Martin's; Matthew Dewar, York* House.

Music

Edward Walter, St Martin's; Sang Joon Park, Longfield Middle.

The school has charity status and exists for the education of children. Registered Charity No 310018.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Sturt, Australian explorer, Bengal, 1795; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, social reformer, London, 1801; Frances Hodgkins, painter, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1869.

DEATHS: Gilbert A. Becket, comic writer, Boulogne, 1856; Sir Samuel Cunard, shipowner, London, 1865; Richard Hughes, novelist, Harlech, 1976.

Captain Cook landed in Australia at Botany Bay, 1770.

The crew of the *Bounty*, led by Fletcher Christian, mutinied, 1789.

Private view

The Vikram Jadeja Foundation & Charitable Trust

The Trustees of The Vikram Jadeja Foundation: Sir Richard Fitz-Herbert, Bt, Vikram Jadeja, Sajan Chudasama and Krishna Jadeja held a Private View of The King of the World, The "Padshahnama" at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, April 16. Mr Oliver Everett, Librarian, Windsor Castle, gave a talk on the historic perspective of the magnificent Mughal Manuscript.

The Guests of Honour were: Mrs Chandaba K Jadeja, Mrs H R Darbar, Sir Michael Colman, Bt, and Lady Colman, Lady Fitz-Herbert, Viscount and Viscountess Windsor, Mr and Mrs Jamie Colman, Miss Eleanor Colman, Lord Dalmeny, the Hon Mary Anne Denison-Pender, Mr Richard Bramwell, QC, the Rev and Mrs J.D. Ferguson, Miss Selena FitzHerbert, Mr and Mrs T.A. Page, Mrs V.R. Persson, Mr and Mrs J de Haan.

Among others present were: Dr Riley and Professor Riley, Mr and Mrs K Sodha, Aarti and Rajdeep Sodha, Mr and Mrs M J Bostelmann, Mr and Mrs K Moore, Mr and Mrs Charles Fairweather, Mr Gordon Bell, Mr Michael Foil, Mr and Mrs Dougherty, Mr Robert Usher-Somers, Mr Tim Straw, Mrs J Symons, Mr Clive Thompson, Mr and Mrs Thurston, Mr and Mrs T Crawley, Miss Philippa Blake-Roberts, Mr and Mrs Raj Vala, Mr Tim Wishart, Mr Richard Mullens, Mr Andrew Bruce, Mr Iain Buchan, Mr Nicholas Dennis, Mr David Collingwood, Mr and Mrs D Farrar and Mr James Farrar, Mr and Mrs S. Hakoura, Mr Samer Hakoura, Miss Minal Jadeja, Mr and Mrs H Raol, Mr P Martin-Colliver, Mrs AshaRani Mathur, Miss J Slade and Mr C Mountney, Mr and Mrs J Jhala, Mrs L De Gruttola, Mr A Mollinari, Mr George Papadopoulos, Miss C Minille, Mr and Mrs R C Newton, Mr C D Paitnee, Mr and Mrs C Peglar, Mr Carlo Anichini, Mr C Noble, Mr K Stride.

Royal Marines Association

HM Ambassador to Belgium and Group Captain David Henchen, Defence Attaché, attended wreath-laying ceremonies at Zeebrugge Mole and St Donnass Churchyard at the weekend. The Rev Basil Watson said prayers. Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Player, RMR, Colonel R. Burford, HAC, the Mayor and Councillors of Dover, the Aldermen of Brugge and Zeebrugge, the Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Belgium, members of the Royal Marines, Royal Marines Reserves and the City of London branch of the Royal Marines Association were present.

Service luncheon

Royal Hampshire Regiment

Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Keatinge, Chairman of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Officers' Association, presided at the annual *Gallipoli luncheon held on Sat*urday at Serle's House, Winchester.

Service dinner

Royal Monmouthshire RE (Militia)

Major-General K. O'Donoghue was the principal guest at a dinner given by Officers of The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) on Saturday at Great Castle House, Monmouth.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.A. Crick and Miss J.W.C. Luckham

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr M.A. Crick and of Mrs M.M. Crick, of Peterborough, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Major (retd) and Mrs T.de C. Luckham, of Minster in Thanet.

Mr J.G. Goad and Miss T.G. Cook

The engagement is announced between Justin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Goad, of Bletchingley, Surrey, and Tina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Cook, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.T. Harriman and Miss N.N. Davis

The engagement is announced between Tuoyo, elder son of Chief and Mrs H. Harriman, of Lagos, Nigeria, and Natasha, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Davis, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr C-G.A. Stubb and Miss S.E. Innes

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Göran Stubb, of Helsinki, Finland, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs *John Innes*, of Solihull, West Midlands.

Marriages

Mr A.C. Haire and Miss M.J.A. Shepherd

The marriage took place on April 26, 1997, at Our Lady of Good Counsel and Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church, Bury, between Mr Andrew Haire, son of *Mr and Mrs C.A.R. Haire*, of Kenton, Harrow, and Miss Alicen Shepherd, daughter of Major and Mrs J.D. Shepherd, of Bury, Lancashire. The Rev Father Paul J. Cannon officiated.

Mr M. Jowitt and Mrs A. Stross

The marriage took place quietly on April 12, 1997, at Ripley Castle, Harrogate, between Mark Jowitt, of Holmesfield, Derbyshire, and Anne Stross, of Coverdale, North Yorkshire.

G.E.I. Clements

A service of thanksgiving for G.E.I. Clements, LLB, of the Middle Temple and formerly Common Councillor of the City of London, will be held on May 29, at 3.15pm at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall.

The Sovereign's Parade

General Sir Michael Rose represented the Queen at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy *Sandhurst on* Friday, April 11.

The following have been granted commissions in the regiments and corps shown, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No 9b2 (the Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer A.M. Philp and The Queen's Medal by Officer Cadet A.M. Herron):

C N Ackerman, RE, Welbeck C; C S Alexander, R Signals, Barnard Castle S; C S K Barry, *R Anglian, Bottisham* Village C; I F K Bates, R Signals, Wellingborough S; R J Batson, RA, Solihull S; R Bell, Kings, Chatham House S; N M Bennett, RE, Loretto S; T H Bewick, Lt, Churston GS, Brixham; P K Bowyer, RLC, Ysgol Gyfun, Llangefni; M J Brown, AAC, Walngels Copse S, Reading; D L Bryenton, RAMC, Crossley Heath S, Halifax; M Budden, RE, Minster C, Sheerness; J J Bunyard, RWF, Millfield S; P B Campbell, AAC, Grosvenor GS; J E Chandler, LD, Clevedon S; P M Charlesworth, A and SH, Court Moor S, Fleet; R J Clarke, RWF, Doual Abbey S; K E Cochran, R Signals, Welbeck C; T C Coote, IG, *Canford S; C P* Crowther, R Signals, St Pauls C, Dublin; L E Davison, AGC (SPS), Almondbury HS, Huddersfield; Dougall, RS, Monks Park S, Bristol; R J A Durie, 9/12 L, Sherborne S; A E Eccles, Int Corps, Ashford S; H J de V Elliot, Para, Rondebosch HS, Cape Town; A S N Emmet, RRF, Pocklington S; A J Evans, REME, Cardigan SS; A N Field, LI, Dauntsey's S; J G Fieldhouse, Hldrs, Rugby S; M P Forshaw, RA, St Peter's RC HS, Wigan; C Fortey, RE, Lliswery S, Newport; R W Gallimore, Para, Uppingham S; T D Gardiner, RAMC, Churston GS, Brixham; P A Grayson, AGC (SPS), Archway S, Stroud; A W Haigh, RA, Royal GS, Newcastle; T F C Halley, AGC (ETS), St Margarets S, Edinburgh; S R Hannay, RE, Glenalmond C; R Hart, REME, St Margaret S, Midhurst; A J Haseldine, AAC, Hillside HS, Poole; T M D Hawkins, RLC, Cardi Langley S; L A W Hay, RE, Read S, Selby; E J W Hearn, WG, Rugby S; A M Herron, R Irish, Portadown; C J P Hinchliffe, DWR, Knottingley HS, Pontefract; *D J* Holden, AAC, Petersfield S; T M Holmes, REME, Bradford GS; W A Horridge, A and SH, Mt Barker S, Waldorf; K T Hughes, R Irish (HSFT), John Paul Acad, Glasgow; R G Hunter, RS, Cumnock Acad; S H Hutchinson, R Signals, Crown Woods S, Eltham; A G S Hutton, Hldrs, Marlborough C; J W James, Staffords, Whitecross HS, Hereford; K A Reeves, R Signals, Cedars S, Leighton Buzzard; H L Jones, RRW, K Henry VIII, Abergavenny; E M C Kemp, RA, Scorton GS, Richmond; R J King, RLC, Morrisons Acad, Crieff; M A Knowles, RA, Welbeck C; L O Lambeth, R Signals, St George's C; J J S Lane, RDG, Sevenoaks S; S Lane, RGBWR, Cranbrook S, Australia; J K Lauritsen, RAMC, Rannoch S, Pitlochry; J J Lea, RDG, D Hughes S, Menai Br; R A Lescott, LI, Van Dyke S, Leighton Buzzard; R H A Lewis, RHG/D, Harrow S; S C Little, RLC, St Aldans C of E HS, Harrogate; R N *Longfield, RA, Exeter S; I S J Lopez,* Gibraltar Regt, Bayside S, Gibraltar; A C Lowry, R Irish, Methodist C, Belfast; I Lowther, R Signals, Highbury S, Salisbury; A C R Macleod, Hldrs, Fettes C; H J B Macmillan, RE, Daniel Stewarts & Melville; M J Marshall, PWO, Hymers C, Hull; C D Mason, RA, Oakhall Commy C; D May, RA, Cheney S, Oxford; P S McCaffrey, RA, St Augustine's S, Redditch; T N McEwan, SG, Fettes C; S A McNally, R Irish, Clounagh S, Co Armagh; D G Middleton, R Irish, St George's S, Gravesend; J M Millar, REME, Alleynes S, Stevenage; G D Miller, RA, *Broadoak GS, Weston-super-Mare; T P* D Morris, RRF, Bushey Hall S, Watford; A P Morrison, RS, Fettes C; A J O'Connell, AGC (SPS), Lochaber HS, Fort William; J A O'Connell, Grenadier Gds, Worth S; C Owen, Int Corps, Sutton Coldfield GS; P G Owen, REME, Dean Close S; E W Paxton, Para, Wellington C; J P Penhale, RGBWR, Pates GS, Cheltenham; A M Philp, BW, King's S, Worcester; I J Pollard, RA, St Peters S, York; T H Pollitt, RLC, St Anne's S, Southampton; S H Potter, RA, Norwich S; E T Rae, R Signals, St Hildas S, Westcliff; J M Redford, Cheshire, Altringham GS; S S Rees, RLC, Horsell Fld, *Woking; T E* Renwick, Scots DG, Kings S, Worcester; N B Richards, Scots DG, Abingdon S; J A Richardson, RGJ, Sherborne S; J P Roberts, RA, Backwell S; S L Roberts, Int Corps, Deyes HS, Maghull; A D Roe, RA, Trinity S, Croydon; C T Sargent, WG, *Sherborne S; D J Scott, RHG/D, Eton;* C A P H Seager, Staffords, King's GS, Grantham; N M Sempala-Ntege, RA, Buckler's Mead S, Yeovil; D A Sennett, A and SH, Cranleigh S; V A Sercombe, RLC, Bromsgrove S; M W Shilling, REME, Ysgol-Y-Preseli S; J A C Shute, R Irish, Taunton S; L E Skidmore, AGC (ETS), Harrogate Ladies C; A E T Sparks, RA, *Shrewsbury C; N E* Springall, RLC, Sir J Lemen HS, Beccles; M M D Stear, DWR, Monkton Combe S; G C D Summerfield, RRF, King's S, Macclesfield; D J Sweeney, R Irish, Duke of Yorks RMS; A M Taylor, R Signals, Taunton S; M J H Taylor, RTR, Merchant Taylors S; J A H Tetlow, RE, Rossall S; I M Thompson, *RTR, Aquinas C, Perth, WA; K B* Thomson, RHF, Glasgow Acad; R B Thomson, RA, Taunton S; C E Timmis, RGR, Sherborne S; L R J Timpson, SG, Pangbourne C; A D Watts, Cheshire, Kings S, Chester; M E Westley, RWF, Kings S, Worcester; N R Wetherell, RA, St Aldens S, Harrogate; S Williams, AGC (SPS), Cowbridge S; N D *Wiseman, RE, Wycliffe C; P C* Worthington, AGC (ETS), Anglo European S; M W Wray, WFR, Warwick S; D A Young, RLC, Exeter S.

The following overseas cadets also passed out. The winner of the Overseas Cane was Officer Cadet *Mahmoud-Jordan:*

Belize: Thomas Cal.

Brunei: A K Mohamed Sufri Pg Haji Rosli.

Czech Republic: Pavel Hojka.

Ghana: Ekow Nkrane Mensah-Yawson.

Jamaica: Richard Andrew Dacosta, Markland Aloysius Lloyd.

Jordan: Mahmoud Zeidan Mistarihi.

Kenya: Richard Kiplagai Kipkurui, Jackson Manases Mwendwa.

Kuwait: Ahmad Bin Sulaiman Al Zaidan, Mubarak Falah Al-Hajraf.

Lesotho: Ramanka Josias Mokaloba, Posa Alphonce Sremere.

Malawi: Rector Chifundo Kamwana.

Malaysia: Adam Buqhary Amzah.

Malta: Nicholas Cassar.

Namibia: Salatiel Mwangyenga Ntinda.

Oman: Masoud Salim Al Riyami, Salam Saif Ali Al Mausaliami.

Pakistan: Muhammad Ali.

Paraguay: Rafael Alberto Ruiz-Ferreira.

Senegal: Younousse Diedhiou, Sallou Ngom.

Sri Lanka: E W Ruann Sesiri Bandara Ehelepola.

Tanzania: Baganchwera Traseas Rutambuka.

UAE (Abu Dhabi): Faisal Abdullah Al-Balushi.

Yemen: Suhail Hussein Al Amri.

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BIRTHS

ALLISON - On 21st April 1997 at Epsom General Hospital, to Sarah (née Cooper) and Phil, a son, Joseph Christian, a brother for Ben and Guy.

KEOGH - On April 12th at The Whittington Hospital, to Claire (née Minett) and Kevin, a son, Edward William Patrick, a brother for Rachel.

MACDONALD - On April 26th to Michie (née Mackie) and Angus, a son Jamie, a brother for Archie and Jack.

MORGAN - On April 21st 1997 to Michelle (Née Gooder) and Roland a son Adam Richard a brother for Giles.

ROBINSON - On 24th April 1997, to Anne (née Fleming) and Paul, a son, James William.

SAMER - On 17th April to Peter and Katherine (née Whittaker), a son, Christopher David. A brother for Joanna and Michael.

TROMPETAS - On 16th April 1997 at Mayday Hospital, Croydon, to Joanna (née Daly) and Alex, a son, Nicholas Thomas, brother for Anna and Isabelle.

TROY - On 24th April in Chichester to Susanna (née Duncan) and Martin, a lovely boy Oliver Richard.

WAGSTAFF - On April 19th 1997, to Mark and Anne, a daughter, Emma Olivia Anne, a sister for James and Tom.

MARRIAGES

GOLDSMITH:BETTANEY - On April 26th 1997 in Peckforton Castle, Cheshire, of Mr Gary C. Goldsmith of Maidenhead, Berks. and Miss Luan E.V. Bettaney of Crewe.

DEATHS

BARNES - Roy, scientist, teacher, socialist, died 22nd April aged 82. Beloved husband of Pearl and proud devoted *father of Judith and father*-in-law of Jet. A very special and talented man, loved and respected by his many friends. Funeral at West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday 30th April at 3 pm. No flowers please. Donations to Pembridge Centre Education Fund c/o Leverton & Sons, 624 Finchley Road, London, NW11 7RR.

LOCKWOOD - Agar Morrison on April 24th aged 76 peacefully at home in Maori Argentina. Beloved husband of Mary and dearest father of Joanna, Victoria, Gavin and Andrew and Grandfather of Karina, Mark and Josephine and brother of Margaret and Jean. He was loved by them and all his family.

MELLOR - Peacefully on April 24th 1997 at home, J.F.M. (Derick) father of Peter and Maureen, grandfather of Nicholas, Susannah, Elaine and Christopher. He will be much missed by his family and many friends. Funeral Service to be held at St Nicholas Church, Blakeney at 11.30am on Thursday May 1st for family and friends. All enquiries, flowers to Lloyd Dudman 11A Awmme Road, High Kelling, Holt, Norfolk 01263 713113. Donations if desired to the Army Benevolent Fund.

PEEKHAM - Alan, on 25th April 1997, peacefully at home after a courageous fight. Dearly loved husband of Ginny, devoted father of Henrietta, Charles and Jamie and much loved by his family and friends. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Shipley on Friday 2nd of May 2.30pm. Flowers, or, donations to: St Catherine's Hospice, c/o Freeman Brothers, 9 North Parade, Horsham, West Sussex. RH12 2BP.

DEATHS

ROBIN - On 24th April 1997, peacefully at home, Diana Mary Cleveland L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., of Lindfield aged 64. Much loved friend of Geoffrey Grange and step daughter of David Carnegie. Funeral Service to be held on Friday 2nd May at St Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Haywards Heath at 2.30pm. Flowers, or donations in lieu for the Harestone Marie Curie Centre may be sent c/o Masters and Son, 4 Dunnans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex. (01444) 482107.

SHELLING - Doctor Margaret Dorothy MBBS, FRCP, FRCS, FRCR, on 24th April 1997 at the Pines Nursing Home, Putney. Cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium at 11.30am on Wednesday 30th April followed by a reception at the Richmond Gate Hotel. All friends most welcome. Flowers and enquiries to T.H. Sanders & Sons 12-14 Medfield Street, Roehampton SW15. Tel: 0181 789 6855.

VOAK - Ena peacefully on 23rd *April 1997 aged 91,* widow of Cyril Voak and beloved mother of Brian and David. Funeral Service at Enfield Crematorium on Friday 2nd May at 12 noon. Enquiries to F. Upson & Son Ltd., tel: (0181) 808-1475.

WADDINGTON - Sylvia Ruth Bowring (née Skinnaing) on April 23rd, aged 89, wife of Richard Waddington, loved and loving aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt. Funeral St Paul's, Knightsbridge, (Wilton Place) at 11 am Wednesday April 30th. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Nicholas' Convent, 67 Holland Park, London W11 3EJ.

WILKINSON - On 24th April peacefully at home after a short illness - Thomas Lancelot, "Tim" aged 86. Dear husband of Ruth and much loved father and Grandfather. Burial, family and relations only, at Brainshaugh Chapel, Acklington, Northumberland at 2.30pm on Friday 2nd May. No mourning or flowers if wished donations to The Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queens gate, London, SW7 5HR.

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ST.MAUR'S CONVENT, Weybridge, June 7th 1997, 3.30pm. An afternoon for Old Girls, Former Staff and Friends to say 'Good-Bye' to the Sisters. Please write to Sister Mary Murphy for information.

RENTALS

W14. Quiet luxurious 2 bedroom townhouse, gdn, pkg, 5 mins tube, £280 pw. 0181 748 2442

LEGAL NOTICES

European Food Transport Ltd (IN LIQUID

OBITUARIES

PENG ZHEN

Peng Zhen, former Politburo member and Mayor of Beijing, died in Beijing on April 26 aged 95. He was born in 1902.

Peng Zhen was the oldest and highest ranking of the veteran revolutionaries associated with the entire span of the Communist revolution and the major events after the Communist victory in 1949. With his death there survive only three of China's "Eight Immortals", leaders revered for their long service to the revolution and to the Party. Peng's own career included virtually every high and low moment of China's modern history since he joined the Party in 1923, only two years after it was founded.

It is a mark of Peng's importance and seniority that in 1983 Chairman Mao considered him as a possible successor to President Liu Shaoqi, and thus to himself, and that in 1966 Peng became the first high-ranking victim of the Cultural Revolution. After his rehabilitation in 1978, brought back to power with the re-emergence of Deng Xiaoping. Peng continued into his very old age to play an active role, usually aligned with the leadership's more cautious elements, but always devoted to Deng.

In 1989 Deng brought him out of official retirement to join the group of veteran grandees which directed the Tiananmen crackdown: it was Peng who accused Zhao Ziyang, Party General Secretary who had been somewhat sympathetic to the students of "working with hostile forces ... to overthrow the Chinese Communist Party and disrupt the socialist system" — the charge which resulted in Zhao's house arrest to this day.

Peng Zhen was born in north China's Shanxi province, to a peasant family. Unusually for a poor boy he was able to secure a middle school education; during that time he joined the underground Communist Youth League and in 1923 the Party itself. In that year he was briefly arrested; this would recur in 1936 by which time he



was on the North China Bureau of the Central Committee. After the Long March in 1936 Peng was active in regions of north China away from the main guerrilla base at Yanan. In 1945 he was elevated to full membership in the Central Committee and in 1951 rose to the Politburo and became Mayor of Beijing.

During the late 1950s, Peng was a major figure in the various campaigns against "counter-revolutionaries" inside and outside the Party, and after the humiliation of Mao and other top leaders during the Hundred Flowers movement of 1957, it was Peng who led the five-man group in the anti-Rightist drive against intellectuals during which 400,000 people were purged, some of them for more than 20 years.

But in 1961, after the disastrous famine of 1959-61, during the Great Leap Forward, Peng was part of a group around Deng which considered laying the blame at the feet of Mao. But when it came to making a public report Peng could not face the consequences of such an act. It may have been for such loyalty that Mao considered Peng as a candidate to succeed him, but this also may have been one of the Chairman's manoeuvres to build a coalition against those who had criticised him which eventually led, beginning in 1966, to Mao's purge of virtually the entire top leadership, beginning with Peng.

The immediate cause of Peng's purge was that Wu Han, his deputy as mayor of Beijing, had written a play purporting to be about Hai Rui, an honest 17th-century official who had dared to criticise the Ming emperor and was punished. This was seen as a covert attack on Mao's purge of Marshal Peng Dehuai who had blamed him for causing the 1959 famine. The purge of the Beijing hierarchy, led by Peng, is usually seen as the opening salvo of the Cultural Revolution.

After his rehabilitation in 1978, Peng stuck closely to Deng and joined him in the 1980s in his attacks on "bourgeois liberalisation" and "spiritual pollution", code words for Western liberal ideas and in January, 1987 Peng was one of those who brought down Hu Yaobang, then Party General Secretary, partly because Hu was seen as slightly too sympathetic to students — this prefigures the purge in 1989 of Zhao Ziyang, Hu's successor — but also because Hu was threatening to take action against the "princelings," corrupt offspring of the senior leaders.

Peng relinquished his last official post, chairman of the National People's Congress in 1988, but remained one of China's most puissant leaders. Although an economic conservative, sceptical of Deng's reforms, in 1992 when Deng challenged the Party leadership to back him, Peng was loud in his support.

It is believed that in 1989, when Deng singled out Jiang Zemin as "core leader" and President, Peng favoured Politburo member Qiao Shi. It was Qiao who oversaw the *qingcha*, the "ferreting out" of tens of thousands within the Party who were said to have wavered during the Tiananmen period, an effort wholly approved by Peng.

Because "Immortals" like Peng were untouchable, President Jiang was forced to heed their advice and notice their feelings. With him gone, Jiang will have a freer hand.

He is survived by four sons and a daughter.

SIR NICHOLAS BAKER

Sir Nicholas Baker, former Conservative MP for North Dorset, died of cancer on April 25 aged 58. He was born on November 23, 1938



A DEDICATED constituency MP, Nicholas Baker served as Conservative member for North Dorset for nearly 18 years. But it was his ill fortune to be principally remembered as the man who rejected the citizenship applications of Mohamed Al Fayed and his brother Ali, thereby provoking many of the Conservative Party's current troubles.

Baker first attracted public attention when he declared in the Commons, a year after his 1979 election to his North Dorset seat, that the heedless expansion of tourism in London was turning the capital into an uninteresting museum. Restaurant facilities, spawned to cater for the tourist trade, were often dirty and untidy, he said, and whole sections of the city, overcrowded with hotels, were becoming dormitories for tourists. High rents drove rightful residents away.

In his rural constituency he campaigned against out of town superstores, advocated the setting up of village housing trusts to provide low cost accommodation and fought to have the bones of the Anglo Saxon King of England, St Edward the Martyr, returned to what he said was their rightful resting place in Shaftesbury Abbey.

In Parliament from 1994 he proved a steadfast member of Home Secretary Michael Howard's ministerial team. He played a considerable role in passing legislation to extend pub licensing hours and defended Government policies on asylum applications. When he retired because of ill health in 1995 he was also working on the framing of legislation involving tighter immigration procedures to stop racketeers who make millions of pounds out of arranging bogus marriages.

Nicholas Baker was educated at St Neot's School in Hampshire and Clifton College, Bristol. Called up for National Service from 1957 until 1959 he was commissioned into the King's African Rifles in Tanganyika (now Tanzania). He was to maintain an abiding love of Africa and an interest in the evolving relationships between developed and developing countries. Even in the last year of his life he published a pamphlet setting out proposals for redefining British priorities for aid. He also had great respect for the benefits of National Service and later advocated the return of some form of this whereby young people could choose to work in the community, either at home or overseas.

He went on to study Greats at Exeter College, Oxford. There he was an active member of his college debating society. He was also president of the Oxford Carlton Club, executive officer of the Oxford University Conservative Association and editor of *Oxford Tory*.

He was articled and qualified as a solicitor with the firm Richards, Butler in 1967. A solicitor, specialising in company and commercial law, he joined the London firm Frere Cholmeley (later Frere Cholmeley Bischoff) in 1973 as a partner. He was to become solicitor to the Beatles and to their record company Apple.

He was a founder of the Branstone branch of the North Kensington Conservative Association and was its chairman from 1964 until 1968. He was also vice chairman of the North Kensington Conservative Association from 1967 to 1969.

In 1971 he was adopted as the prospective parliamentary candidate for Southwark, Peckham, contesting the seat in both elections in 1974. He also served as secretary of the Bow Group, 1970-71, and political officer, 1971-72. At this time he produced the first of several policy pamphlets on subjects of special interest to him, including company law, rural housing and rural planning.

In 1979 he was elected Conservative MP for Dorset North. He was one of the first of that year's intake of new MPs to be offered a ministerial appointment. To the surprise of several colleagues at the time, he declined this offer, preferring to spend as much time as he could with his young family.

He did, however, become PPS to a succession of ministers culminating with Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence in 1984, and to Lord Young, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, after Heseltine's resignation in January 1987.

In 1989 he was appointed a junior whip and was promoted to a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in the following year, remaining in the whips office until 1994. In that year he was appointed Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, but had to resign the next year because of ill health.

He was knighted in the New Year's Honours earlier this year by the Queen's representative who visited him in his hospital bed.

He is survived by his wife Carol, whom he married in 1970 and by their son and daughter.

JOAN LADY CAMROSE

Joan Lady Camrose, mother of the Aga Khan, died on April 25 aged 89. She was born on April 22, 1908.



Joan Lady Camrose with her son the Aga Khan, 1957

A RENOWNED beauty of her day, Joan Lady Camrose was to play host to a circle of socialites, intellectuals, politicians and diplomats in London. Her list of acquaintances was as eclectic as it was sophisticated, including as it did such figures as Evelyn Waugh, Randolph Churchill, Margot Fonteyn, Nancy Mitford, Lord Birkenhead, Malcolm Muggeridge, Freya Stark, Harold Acton, Edward Heath and Cecil Beaton — she was instrumental in launching the photographic career of the last. Her choice of companions reflected her own wide range of interests.

Joan Barbara Yarde-Buller was the eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Churston. Her mother, who later remarried to become the Duchess of Leicester, was a talented musician. One of her sisters, Primrose, married the Earl of Cadogan. Another, Lydia, became the Duchess of Bedford. She herself married three times.

The first marriage was to Thomas Loel Guinness, of the banking family. A son, Patrick, was born but died in a car accident in the 1960s. The second was to Prince Aly Khan, son of Sir Sultan Mahommed Shah, Aga Khan III, renowned as Imam of 15 million Ismaili Muslims, twice president of the League of Nations and five times winner of the Epsom Derby.

Prince Aly and Joan married in Paris in 1936 and had two sons, Karim and Amyn. When war broke out in 1940, Prince Aly joined the French cavalry and served throughout the Middle East while Joan based herself at the Anglo-French Hospital in Cairo after setting up home for her two boys in Kenya. It was during this period that she got to know and admire her father-in-law, Aga Khan III. It was he who used her knowledge of hospitals and nursing to the benefit of his followers. In 1944 he appointed her health and education commissioner in East Africa and she helped introduce his plans for the management of Ismaili schools and clinics.

The marriage, however, did not survive the stress of the five-year hostilities of the Second World War. Princess Joan moved to a new home in Eaton Square, London, and opened her doors to a glittering array of diplomats, politicians, ambassadors, writers, musicians and journalists.

Meanwhile, her two sons were growing up rapidly. The old Aga's regard for her had not been affected by the divorce and it was entirely on his advice that her sons were educated at Le Rosey in Switzerland and at Harvard in America, thus by-passing the conventional British upper-class equivalents of Eton or Harrow and Oxbridge. But in 1957 Aga III died and surprised the world by selecting in his will his 20-year old elder grandson, Karim, rather than either of his sons, Aly and Sadruddin, to succeed him as Imam or Spiritual Leader of the Ismaili Muslims scattered through 22 countries all over the globe.

Karim, still a junior at Harvard, had now to undertake a world tour when he would be formally installed as the Ismaili's 49th Imam. Princess Joan found herself caught up in a whirl of preparations for a long and complicated journey, the first stage of which was to the three territories of East Africa (still very much under the British colonial wing). They involved meetings with the Ismaili leaders from the region and making arrangements for the entire family including Prince Aly himself (who bore any eventual disappointment with remarkable fortitude and whose loyalty to his son was exemplary).

Without once stepping on her son's toes, Princess Joan helped smooth his path with the media, accompanied him to Buckingham Palace where the Queen passed on the title of "High Highness" originally bestowed on his grandfather by Queen Victoria.

The arrangement of the "Takht-nashinis", or accession ceremonies which followed in Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Kampala, Karachi and Bombay were her next task. But whether the young Aga Khan was meeting the Kabaka of Uganda or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi, Princess Joan was always discreetly at hand. Once the tour was completed, however, and as her son became more closely involved with Ismaili affairs, she largely withdrew.

Even so, along with other members of the family, she accompanied him on several overseas visits well into her 70s. Most often she joined the family holidays with innumerable grandchildren at the Aga Khan's villa in Porto Cervo, Sardinia. Meanwhile she was free to indulge her other interests at the opera and ballet at Covent Garden, in health and hospitals and in archaeology. She played a leading role in stimulating interest in the former Hellenic sites on the southern coast of Turkey, most particularly in raising funds for the restoration of the ancient city of Aphrodisias.

In 1986 she married again, late in life, to her long term companion, the late Seymour Thomas Berry, Viscount Lord Camrose, former chairman and then director of *The Daily Telegraph*. She was to preside with as much grace and skill over his family home in Hackwood as she had done over Prince Aly's house at Maison Lafitte in Paris. Above all she was able to enjoy her other passion in life — landscape gardening. She researched the original plans and completely transformed the glorious woods and grounds at Hackwood, personally supervising its opening to the public.

Her third husband predeceased her. She is survived by her two sons.

ELLEN HARRIS

Ellen Harris, Reuters reporter, died on April 11 aged 94. She was born on April 20, 1902.



ELLEN HARRIS was the first woman to be given accreditation by the Serjeant at Arms to the Parliamentary Press Gallery. She went there at the nadir of the Second World War in 1940 to give the Reuter team a strong boost.

Reuters was then in Olympic-style, split second competition with the two other worldwide news agencies, United Press and Associated Press. A thirty second or one minute beat with a news flash was the round-the-clock aim. It meant space in the stop press columns of newspapers. From Fiji to Newfoundland they were going to press at all hours. A Reuter credit on an item brought prestige, and that ultimately was translated into sales and revenue.

Ellen Harris brought to this race fingers that sped over a keyboard in record time. She could type faster than anyone could speak, without sacrifice of accuracy. Literals or misplaced commas were unknown in her copy. Her mind was as quick as were her fingers. It soon pierced the mysteries of parliamentary procedure. She took charge of all written questions for Reuters as well as dispatching all parliamentary copy, and remained a key figure in the Reuters team at Westminster until she retired in 1967.

Ellen Ada Baylis — known as "Bay" to friends and colleagues — was born into a London family that hovered between working and lower middle class. She left school at 14, and within weeks joined Reuters as a messenger girl at the height of the First World War. After a day's running around in Fleet Street, she imposed on herself the tough discipline of evening classes to master shorthand and typing. And for 51 years of unsocial hours, that could start at seven in the morning and on the late shift end at 10 or 11 at night, she gave Reuters her total loyalty. The firm became almost the whole of her life when she married one of its traffic technicians, Tom Harris. They remained together until he died nearly 50 years later.

In the tea room of the House of Commons she became friendly with Bernard Taylor, the Nottinghamshire miner who came to Westminster as a Labour MP a year after she did. Taylor's wife died in 1983, a few years after Ellen Harris had been widowed. He began to visit her at her home in Eltham, on the Kent outskirts of London. Eventually they both found it increasingly difficult to cope on their own. So she sold her home to move into his council house in Mansfield Woodhouse. And he broke a lifelong principle and bought the house to give her security in her new home.

As Lord Taylor of Mansfield he remained a public figure to the end, and Ellen Harris partnered him in his public duties with flair, warmth and vivacity. A lifelong Tory voter, she took to Mansfield and its Labour society the moment she set foot among the old miners' cottages.

She stayed in the former council house in Shakespeare Avenue after Taylor died. But she was buried alongside Tom Harris in Eltham cemetery.

There were no children.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Jeremy Allcock, Vicar, East Ham, St Paul, now also Assistant Area Dean of Newham (Chelmsford).

The Rev Billy Barnes, curate, Northallerton with Kirby Sigston, to be Vicar, Dormanstown (York).

The Rev Alan Bayes, curate, St Mark's, Talbot Village, Bournemouth, now has permission to officiate in diocese of Durham, and to be Chaplain to College of St Hild and St Bede at Durham University.

The Rev Reginald Bushau, Vicar, St Mary Magdalene, Paddington, to be Priest-in-charge, St Stephen, Gloucester Road (London).

The Rev Gary Barrett, Chaplain, Elizabeth College, Guernsey (Winchester), to be Priest-in-charge, Westham (Chichester).

The Rev Jonathan Brown, curate, Esher (Guildford), to be Team Vicar, Crawley Three Bridges (Chichester).

The Rev Vernon Brooke, Industrial Chaplain (Derby), to be Team Leader, Industrial Chaplains (Chichester).

The Rev Derek Chandler, Curate, Bitterne Park, Southampton (Winchester), to be Team Vicar Melton Mowbray Team Ministry, and Framland Deanery Youth Chaplain (Leicester).

The Rev Colin Cheeseman, Chaplain, HM Prison, Wealstun, to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Armley (Ripon).

The Rev Timothy Daplyn, Curate, Southmead, to be Bristol Diocesan Communications Officer, press officer for Bristol Archdeaconry, and Priest-in-charge Abbots Leigh with Leigh Woods (Bristol).

The Rev Nicholas Deane, Vicar, Christ Church, Newburgh with St James, Westhead (Liverpool), to be Rector, Chadwell St Mary (Chelmsford).

The Rev Paul Topham, formerly Chaplain of Toulouse, Cahors and Pau, France (Europe), to be Priest-in-charge, All Souls', St Margaret's, Twickenham (London).

The Rev David Wills, Vicar, Mossley Hill (Liverpool), to be Rector, Walbrook Epiphany Team Ministry (Derby).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev George Campbell, Vicar, West Bromwich Holy Trinity (Lichfield), to retire April 30.

The Rev Richard Haigh, Rector, Brough with Stainmore, Musgrave and Warcop (Carlisle), to retire May 15.

The Rev Christopher Herbert, Vicar, Great Shelford (Ely), to retire April 30.

The Rev Joseph Hogarth, Vicar, Consett (Durham), to resign May 31.

The Rev Jonathan Martin, curate, Heatherlands St John (Salisbury), to resign and be executive director, Dame Agnes Weston's Royal Sailors' Rests, Dorset.

Canon Paul Oestreicher, Canon Residentiary and Director of International Ministry at Coventry Cathedral (Coventry), to retire December 31.

The Rev John Pyle, Vicar, Cholterton with Birtley and Thockrington (Newcastle), to retire May 31.

The Rev Michael Ranken, Honorary Curate, Epsom, St Martin (Guildford), to retire April 30.

The Rev Richard Watkins-Wright, Rector, Great Gransden with Little Gransden (Ely), retired on March 31.

The Rev Owen Blatchly, Rector, Binfield, All Saints and St Mark (Oxford), to retire May 31.

Canon Cavell Cavell-Northam, Vicar, Stony Stratford (Oxford), to retire August 31.

The Rev Richard Dent, curate, St Michael and All Angels, Bedminster, and until recently Assistant Chaplain at Frenchay Hospital (Bristol), to retire May 31.

The Rev Wendy Poole, curate, Hamworthy Team Ministry (Salisbury), to retire July 31.

THE KING'S VISIT TO GREENWICH

MARITIME MUSEUM OPENED

The King went to Greenwich by river from Westminster yesterday to open the National Maritime Museum. With his Majesty were the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, and the First Lord of the Admiralty was Minister in attendance. A guard of honour of the Royal Marines was stationed on the embankment by Westminster Pier, and the Royal journey was made in the barge of the Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, with a launch of the Port of London Authority leading the procession and an escort of four motor torpedo-boats.

The Thames has had little of pageantry in its recent history, and until yesterday there had not been since 1919 anything in the nature of a Royal progress along London's river. The people of London enjoyed the occasion. It was impressive rather than picturesque. Many who looked on at yesterday's procession remembered the grand old Royal barge, with its long scarlet oars. It had given place to the severely practical barge of a modern navy.

With the change there had gone a great deal of the picturesqueness of river pageantry, but the swift relentless machine that had come on the scene was impressive in its efficiency and wonderful movement. Of the thousands of persons who looked across Westminster Bridge and over the embankment parapets, few seemed able to realize that the King and his escort were out of sight in a few seconds. The modern age of mechanical transport seemed to have intruded into the traditions of Thames pageantry with startling suddenness.

Great crowds began to gather near Westminster Pier long before the King left Buckingham Palace. Along the pavement of Westminster Bridge people stood six and seven deep for more than two hours, and there was a similar press of people for a great distance along the embankment. The upper windows of every building from which anything of this Royal journey could be seen were filled with persons looking down on the scene below. The crowds in the streets were reminded all the time of the approaching Coronation, with hawkers importuning them to "buy your colours — red, white and blue," or to buy a periscope for a shilling before it went up to half-a-crown in Coronation week. "Official programmes" had of course, sprung in great numbers from unofficial sources.

DRIVE TO THE QUEEN'S HOUSE

The Royal party disembarked at Greenwich College steps, opposite the broad avenue which divides the buildings of the Royal Naval College and runs back from the river to the Queen's House. The King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth, with those in attendance on them, drove to the Queen's House in motor-cars.

The route along King William Street and Romney Road was thickly lined with spectators, who greeted their Majesties with cheers and fluttering handkerchiefs. Queen Mary, who had come by road in advance, awaited them at the top of the steps leading to the broad terrace of the Queen's House.

ON THIS DAY

April 28, 1937

The Queen's House, probably the most gracious building on the Thames, was built by Inigo Jones to the order of James I for his consort Anne; it was completed by Charles I.

NEWS

Portillo and Heseltine vie for crown

■ Michael Heseltine and Michael Portillo emerged yesterday at the head of an eight-man field that will run for the Tory leadership if John Major goes down to heavy election defeat.

The Deputy Prime Minister's supporters say privately that he still has the energy and ambition to challenge for the ultimate office. They believe that his strong campaign performance, including an apparent shift towards the Eurosceptics, has helped his chances ..... **Pages 1, 7-11, 20, 21**

Major struggles to lift Tory gloom

■ John Major tried to lift Tory gloom and Tony Blair warned his party against complacency as the prospect of a Labour landslide appeared to harden with only four days to polling. The Prime Minister will today launch a desperate rearguard attempt to stay on in office..... **Page 1**

BA terrorist fears

British Airways customers hoping to fly home from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris may find themselves being offered a Eurostar ticket instead. The airline is refusing to load hold luggage because of fears of terrorist attack..... **Page 2**

Fraud nets £8bn

West African fraudsters account for nearly half of Britain's annual £8 billion losses through fraud, according to a police intelligence report..... **Page 2**

Women on board

Britain's premier rowing club, the Leander, voted by a "clear majority" to admit women members for the first time in its 179-year history..... **Page 2**

Pub murder hunt

Murder squad detectives have interviewed more than a hundred drinkers at a pub where the daughter of a judge was slashed to death minutes after last orders were called..... **Page 3**

Early harvest

An everyday story of prehistoric farming folk is emerging from the excavation of a site on the edge of the Lincolnshire fens..... **Page 4**

Sex education works

Sex education is effective in delaying first-time intercourse, encouraging use of condoms and reducing teenage pregnancy, the BMA says..... **Page 5**

Crippen sale

The gilt pocket watch that the murderer Dr Hawley Crippen bequeathed to his mistress just before he was hanged goes on sale this week..... **Page 5**

The rabble sleeps

Twenty million pounds will have been spent, but the rabble has barely been roused. Nationally, the Referendum Party is clocking about 4 per cent in the opinion polls..... **Page 9**

Housing fraud claims

The wife of President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and members of his administration illegally borrowed millions of dollars from a housing finance scheme set up by a US aid programme, a court was told..... **Page 12**

Cambodia in crisis

Cambodia is on the verge of civil war and is in danger of becoming an international beggar, the leader of the opposition says. **Page 12**

Zaire's 'final solution'

Aid organisations and the United Nations accused Zaire's rebels of attempting a slow extermination of Rwandan Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire..... **Page 13**

Doubts over Kohl

Helmut Kohl, who recently announced that he was ready to stand again as German Chancellor, has come under fire from a leading member of his Christian Democratic Union..... **Page 14**

Cold Warriors spill vintage secrets

■ It was all jolly hush-hush in its time: a top-secret spy film made for training Secret Service recruits. Now it has been declassified for sale as a video. Some shops may be unsure whether to file it under nostalgia, drama or light entertainment. The 60-minute film, *Persona Non Grata*, was made in 1964, at the height of the Cold War..... **Page 6**

BOBBY YIP/REUTER



Fireworks light up the sky at the official opening of the Tsing Ma bridge in Hong Kong by Baroness Thatcher yesterday

BUSINESS

Bank checks bid: The Co-operative Wholesale Society has asked the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry to examine Andrew Regan's aborted bid for the CWS..... **Page 48**

Outskirts: A CBI reports says Britain is suffering because foreign companies favour investing in nations with a strong commitment to the European Union..... **Page 48**

Stadium deal: Newcastle United may sell the new stadium it is planning to build to a property developer or a bank to avoid asking shareholders to finance the £65 million project..... **Page 45**

Currency warning: The IMF has said that any delay in the launch of the single European currency could create market turmoil..... **Page 48**

SPORT

Melvyn Bragg: "How can we fit football into an art form? Is it ballet, theatre, music, or a combination of all of them?"..... **Page 18**

High notes: If you ever thought that *Ariadne on Naxos* got lost in the wide-open spaces of the Coliseum, then hurry to the latest ENO revival and be surprised ... **Page 18**

All this and U2: The Irish superstars launch a world tour, dubbed PopMart, in Las Vegas. But the colossal presentation — their biggest gamble yet — values technology over musicality..... **Page 19**

High gloss: The voices of Take 6 are wonderful. If only the songs they sang at the South Bank were half as interesting. The new wave of gospel music may be passing through a fallow period .... **Page 19**

FEATURES

Drugs: Could your children be taking them? Part one of a new series examining strategies for parents and schools..... **Page 16, 17**

Trevor Grove: "It began as a warning and became a family joke. As our three daughters each reached clubbing age, we would see them off for nights out with a brave 'Have a good time'. Then we would call out: 'And no E!' "..... **Page 16**

MIND AND MATTER

Secret code: Lose an arm and you'll never grow another one. That may seem obvious, but all the original genes which instructed the arm to grow are still there and, in theory, available for service. Nigel Hawkes reports on a genetic breakthrough..... **Page 15**

SPORT

Rugby union: A remarkable era in the history of English rugby has been brought to an end with the announcement that Will Carling is to retire from the international game..... **Page 25, 33.**

Cricket: The Sunday league season began with colour and razzmatazz..... **Page 35, 36**

Motor racing: Heinz-Harald Frentzen silenced speculation about his ability to cope with the demands of driving for Williams by winning the San Marino Grand Prix..... **Page 26**

Football: David Miller saw Brighton give themselves an unexpected chance to avoid relegation from Nationwide League on the day they bade an emotional farewell to the Goldstone Ground..... **Page 29**

Golf: Mark James, the former Ryder Cup player, won a play-off with Greg Norman on the third extra hole to secure the Spanish Open title..... **Page 26**

Snooker: The highly-fancied Ronnie O'Sullivan suffered a surprising exit from the Embassy world championship..... **Page 27**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **MUSIC MAN**
Return of a country legend: Johnny Cash brings his road show to the Albert Hall

■ **LAW**
So much more could be done to counter child prostitution, says a leading QC

LOTTERY NUMBERS

6, 10, 14, 25, 27, 38. Bonus 5.
Six entrants share £7.9 million, winning £1,331,391 each. Thirty-nine get £63,024 each for five balls and the bonus; 1,578 win £973 for five numbers; 71,510 win £47 for four numbers, and 1,164,621 win £10 for three.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Science can seriously damage your health is the message of the eco-thriller *Breakout* (BBC1, 10pm). **Review:** If anyone can bring the Delia-driven passion for gastronomy to a stop, it is Loyd Grossman (*Masterchef*) ... **Page 47**

OPINION

Sceptical voters

Because of the convergence bordering on collusion which marks the approach towards the single currency of the Labour and Tory leaderships it is important that voters should have a proper chance to know what their individual candidates believe..... **Page 21**

Hands across ocean

Many spurious Anglo-American comparisons will be offered in the final days of campaigning but the fate of the New Democrats is still one that should preoccupy Mr Blair..... **Page 21**

Dreaming minarets

If an Islamic renaissance, absorbing and synthesising modern learning and technology, is to enrich the religion's one billion adherents there are few more conducive cities than Oxford..... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Most elections which change governments are, at the time, more to do with the past than the future. The electorate's verdict is usually conditional and looks significant later only if the direction of policy really changes..... **Page 20**

QUENTIN LETTS

American academics gathered recently at the University of California for the first conference on "whiteness" studies..... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Peng Zhen, former Chinese Politburo member; **Sir Nicholas Baker**, former Tory MP..... **Page 23**

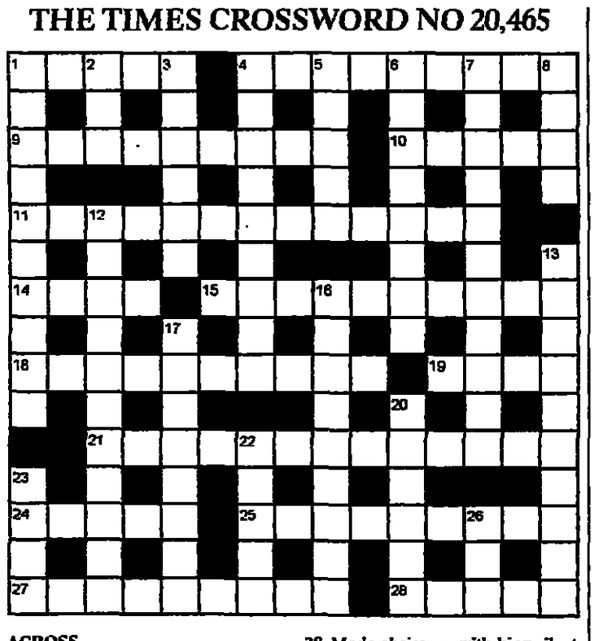
LETTERS

Academics opt for change on May 1; silicone implants..... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

Now that a German court has found Iranian leaders responsible for the murder of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin, America no longer stands alone in condemning Teheran for exporting terrorism. The next step is to develop an effective international response to Iran's behaviour. — *The New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,465



ACROSS

1 'snot cold when this cluster of insects appears (5).
4 He may take notes from his betters on the course (9).
9 Big-mouths currently going over flats at the coast? (9).
10 Cute daughter making cloth (5).
11 An excessive amount of financial difficulty (13).
14 Not big drinks, little ones (4).
15 Fisherman runs in — alarm went wrong! (10).
18 Bet policies could be changed, none the less, in referendum (10).
19 Not entirely sound old ruin (4).
21 Completely honest followers of Scarborough and Leicester (4,3,6).
24 Excuse for declaration of party membership? (5).
25 Snowfall buries a new church in a valley (9).
27 In time, 17, for example, accepts fellow islander (9).
28 Made obeisance with king silent at first (5).

DOWN

1 Conventional character, one who rejects monaural recording? (10).
2 Possibly a soldier's requirement out West (5).
3 Silver found in lake is of poor quality (6).
4 British in charge? A British account assembled in bits and pieces (4-1-4).
5 Sanctuary ornithologist's opening in the existing state (5).
6 Protected further when surrounded by sea (8).
7 Curiously like a top man's urge to steal (11).
8 River fish remain undisturbed (4).
12 Painted ladies, perhaps, producing nervous tremors (11).
13 Unable to speak intelligibly, in native company (10).
16 Drollery husband attracted, being shy (9).
17 Boy meets girl, say — an Oriental female (8).
20 Complaint we may get from parrot (6).
22 He made violins in the morning, very early (5).
23 Quickly and firmly fixed (4).
26 Signal in theatre for audience to line up (3).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,464 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Howarden, Flintshire, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Lough-Fea (Co Tyrone) 0.43in, highest sunshine: Torquay, Stornoway, Outer Hebrides 9.1 hrs

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** in England and Wales the rain band over East Anglia and the South East will clear before midday. Brighter, showery weather will spread to all parts. In the west, showers may be thundery with strong gusty winds.

For Scotland and Northern Ireland, rain in Shetland will clear during the morning. All areas will then have blustery showers, frequent and perhaps thundery in northern and western parts. There will be bright intervals with the best sunshine east of mountains.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** wet start, then bright with afternoon sun, occasional showers. Winds brisk, westerly. Warm. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** bright, occasional showers, sunny periods. Winds fresh, westerly. Warm. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** bright or sunny periods, occasional showers. Winds fresh or strong, blustery westerly. Warm. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **N & S Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE, NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, N Ireland:** bright or sunny intervals, frequent squally showers, risk of thunder. Winds blustery, westerly. Rather warm. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Shetland:** rain clearing, bright or sunny intervals and frequent showers. Winds fresh westerly. Warm. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** becoming settled and mainly dry in South. Rain crossing north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

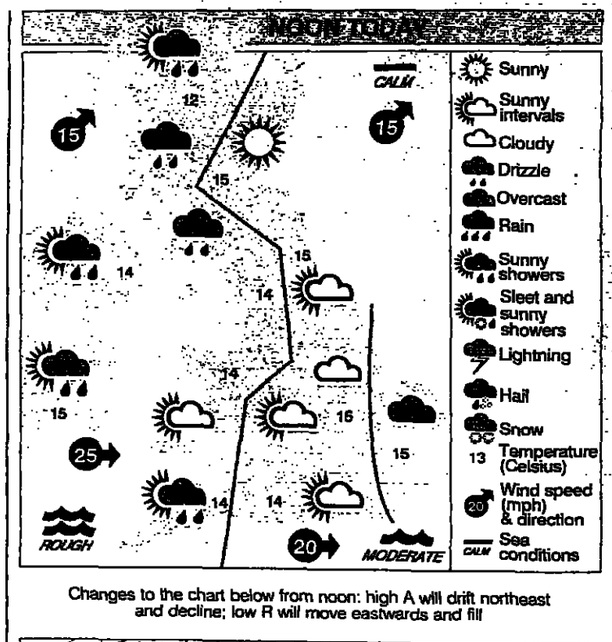
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aspatria	3.8	0.01	16	61	b
Aviemore	4.0	-	15	59	b
Belfast	1.4	0.07	15	59	r
Birmingham	6.0	0.04	17	63	s
Bognor R	7.4	0.13	17	63	s
Bournem'th	8.6	0.02	18	61	s
Bristol	8.0	0.02	16	61	s
Buxton	3.3	0.04	15	59	s
Cardiff	6.5	0.01	15	59	b
Clacton	2.5	0.04	13	55	du
Colwyn Bay	8.3	0.01	17	63	s
Cromer	1.0	0.05	11	52	fg
Eastbourne	3.8	0.09	15	59	c
Edinburgh	0.7	0.01	15	59	b
Eskdalemuir	0.3	0.01	11	52	d
Exmouth	8.3	0.01	17	63	s
Falmouth	4.6	0.02	15	59	du
Fishguard	8.7	0.03	15	59	s
Folkestone	2.9	0.20	16	61	b
Glasgow	0.2	0.02	14	57	d
Guernsey	3.1	0.01	17	63	c
Hastings	3.6	0.14	16	61	b
Hayling I.	5.5	0.20	15	59	s
Heme Bay	2.2	0.08	16	61	sh
Hove	7.2	0.03	11	52	s
Hunstanton	X	0.04	14	57	fg
Isle of Man	-	0.01	11	52	fg
Jersey	4.3	0.13	15	59	b
Kinloss	2.6	-	16	61	b
Leeds	1.8	0.02	16	61	c
Lerwick	-	0.05	7	45	d
Lauchars	X				
Littlehmptn	7.0	0.11	17	63	s
London	3.7	0.09	19	66	s
Lowestoft	1.7	0.03	15	59	fg
Manchester	4.2	0.07	18	64	r
Margate	3.9	0.10	15	59	s
Minehead	5.6	0.01	17	63	b
Morecambe	3.8	0.01	13	55	b
Newcastle	2.9	0.01	16	61	b
Newquay	X				
Norwich	1.7	0.02	17	63	b
Oxford	5.7	0.01	17	63	b
Penzance	r	X	0.02	16	61
Poole	8.1	0.07	19	66	s
Prestatyn	r	X	0.01	18	64
Ross-o-wye	6.9	0.01	17	63	s
Ryde	7.7	0.11	17	63	s
Salcombe	6.5	0.01	15	59	s
Sandown	7.7	0.09	15	59	s
Sountrn Snd	7.3	0.06	16	61	r
Scarboro'	1.4	0.01	15	59	b
Shanklin	8.8	0.02	16	59	s
Shrewsbury	5.0	0.03	17	63	b
Skegness	0.6	0.04	11	52	du
Southend	1.5	0.07	15	59	du
Southport	5.7	0.01	17	63	s
Southsea	7.4	0.16	16	61	r
Stornoway	1.5	0.01	11	52	r
Swanage	7.7	0.07	15	59	s
Teignmouth	8.9	0.01	18	64	s
Tenby	-	0.07	14	57	r
Tiree	0.8	0.05	11	52	d
Torquay	9.1	0.01	18	64	s
Tynemouth	-	0.01	10	50	fg
Ventnor	8.2	0.03	15	59	s
West-s-mare	6.0		15	59	s
Weymouth	8.5	0.16	14	57	s

ABROAD

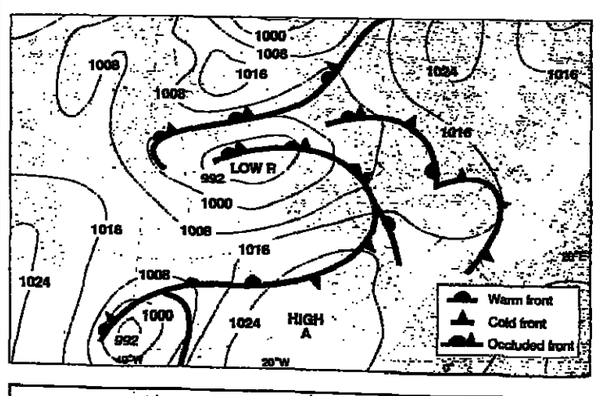
Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	18	64	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	C'phagn	13	55	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	12	54	s
Algiers	25	77	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s
Amst'dm	13	55	c	Faro	21	70	s
Athens	19	66	s	Florence	15	59	c
B Aires	21	70	s	Frankfurt	14	57	f
Bahrain	31	88	s	Funchal	20	68	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	11	52	r
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	24	75	s
Barcelona	18	64	f	Helsinki	9	48	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	24	75	f
Belgrade	22	72	s	Innsbrck	9	48	r
Berlin	17	63	f	Istanbul	13	55	s
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	36	97	s
Biarritz	14	57	r	Jo'burg	21	70	s
Bordx'x	16	61	c	L Angels	22	72	s
Brussels	13	55	c	L Palmas	23	73	s
Budapst	18	64	c	Le Touet	13	55	f
Cairo	22	72	f	Lisbon	20	68	f
Capa Tn	16	61	c	Locarno	8	46	f
Ch'church	12	54	x	Luxembg	13	55	c
Chicago	18	61	f	Luxor	31	88	s
Cologne	11	52	r	Madrid	21	70	f
Majorca	25	77	f	Rome	14	57	r
Malaga	27	81	s	S Fr'isco	17	63	s
Malta	19	66	s	S Paulo	X		
Melb'rne	25	77	s	Salzburg	10	50	r
Mexico C	25	77	s	Santiago	21	70	c
Miami	27	81	f	Seoul	21	70	s
Milan	11	52	f	Sing'por	32	90	f
Montreal	15	59	s	St'kholm	12	54	s
Moscow	7	45	c	Strasb'rg	13	55	r
Munich	9	48	r	Sydney	21	70	s
N Delhi	33	91	f	Tangier	21	70	f
N York	18	64	s	Tel Aviv	18	64	c
Nairobi	24	75	c	Tenerife	24	75	s
Naples	18	61	f	Tokyo	21	70	s
Nice	22	72	s	Toronto	16	61	c
Oslo	11	52	c	Tunis	26	79	s
Paris	15	59	c	Valencia	27	81	f
Peking	24	75	s	Vanc'ver	16	61	f
Perth	19	66	f	Venice	13	55	r
Prague	12	54	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Reykjavik	8	46	c	Warsaw	15	59	s
Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	19	66	s
Rio de J	28	82	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Riyadh	37	99	s	Zurich	11	52	r

Weekend temperatures at midday local time X = not available

MAP TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A will drift northeast and decline; low R will move eastwards and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	06 04	6.9	18.21	6.7	Leith	07 00	5.0	19 31	4.9
Aberdeen	05 34	3.8	18.12	3.7	Liverpool	03.18	8.8	15 42	8.5
Avonmouth	11.27	11.8	23.49	11.6	Lowestoft	01 39	2.3	13 52	2.3
Belfast	03.09	3.3	15.47	3.2	Margate	04.06	4.5	16.27	4.4
Cardiff	11 13	11.0	23.35	10.8	Milford Haven	10.31	6.1	22.57	6.1
Devonport	09 56	4.9	22 12	5.0	Newquay	09 28	6.2	21.53	6.1
Dover	02.57	6.2	15.25	6.2	Oban	08 47	3.3	22 23	3.3
Dublin (N Wall)	03 50	3.8	16 32	3.6	Penzance	08.53	4.9	21.21	4.8
Falmouth	09.27	4.7	21.43	4.8	Portland	11 19	1.6	23.23	1.7
Greenock	04.43	3.2	17 03	3.1	Portsmouth	03.27	4.4	18.01	4.3
Harwich	04.02	3.8	16.20	3.7	Shoreham	03.06	5.7	15 39	5.6
Holyhead	02.27	5.2	14 55	4.9	Southampton	02.48	4.2	15.17	4.2
Ilfracombe	10.15	8.2	22.40	8.1	Swansea	10.37	8.3	23.05	8.3
King's Lynn	10.36	6.0	23 09	5.7	Teos	08 04	4.9	20.41	4.8
					Walton-on-N	03 56	3.9	16.12	3.9

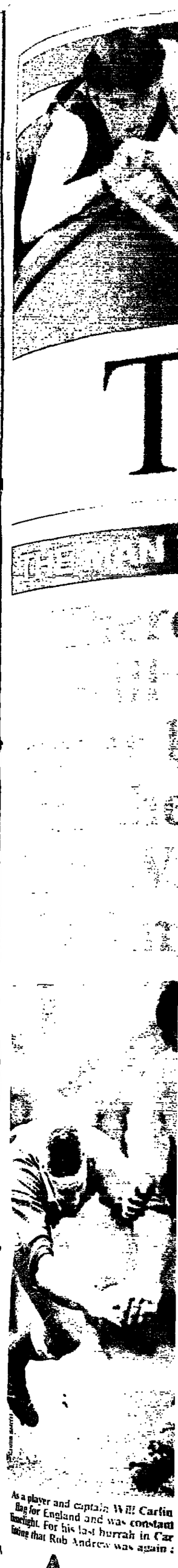
All times: BST Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.38 am
Sun sets: 8.19 pm
Moon sets 10.06 pm
Moon rises 12.58 am
Last quarter April 30

London 8.19 pm to 5.38 am
Bristol 8.29 pm to 5.46 am
Edinburgh 8.48 pm to 5.34 am
Manchester 8.34 pm to 5.39 am
Penzance 8.37 pm to 6.02 am

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هكذا من الاصل



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 28 1997

THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF ENGLISH RUGBY RETIRES

'There will never be another like Will Carling'



DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTER



COLIN ELSEY/COLORSPORT



As a player and captain Will Carling flew the flag for England and was constantly in the limelight. For his last hurrah in Cardiff it was fitting that Rob Andrew was again at his side



THE CARLING YEARS	
1988	First England cap in 10-9 defeat by France
1988	First match as captain, a 28-19 win over Australia at Twickenham
1991	Wins first grand slam, defeat in World Cup final
1992	Honours on and off the pitch. Appointed OBE, wins second grand slam
1995	Leads England to third grand slam
1995	Sacked and reinstated after "old farts" remark
1996	Stands down as captain after 59 matches in charge
1997	Makes 72nd and last appearance for England

A captain to rank with the best

Rob Andrew, the leader's right-hand man during a decade of tumultuous change, offers an assessment of the Carling years

It is impossible to measure the enormous influence Will Carling had on the development of English rugby in an extraordinary decade. An era has ended with his retirement at the weekend from the international scene, one that began with England beating Australia in 1988, the first of Will's world record 59 appearances as captain. Everyone involved that day sensed something special, that a great corner had been turned.

The mid-Eighties had not been a happy time for England. When Geoff Cooke came along as coach at the start of 1988, things began to change. Those of us mentioned in terms of the captaincy — Brian Moore, Dean Richards and myself — were not in especially good form. Will was 22, fresh to the side, a powerful centre. Geoff chose him as his man to lead us, initially for three years. It was a bold move, one that Will himself could not quite believe, but which turned out to be absolutely inspired.

Not only had England never had a captain quite like him, they will not again. Will was not a natural-born leader and not an "over-the-trenches" sort of captain. He grew into the role, sought advice and worked on creating the enormous team spirit within the 1991 side — the height of England's powers. He made it his mission to talk at length with individual players. His communication skills and attention to detail were second to none. No England captain had spent the time he did creating the sense of the England team being almost a club side.

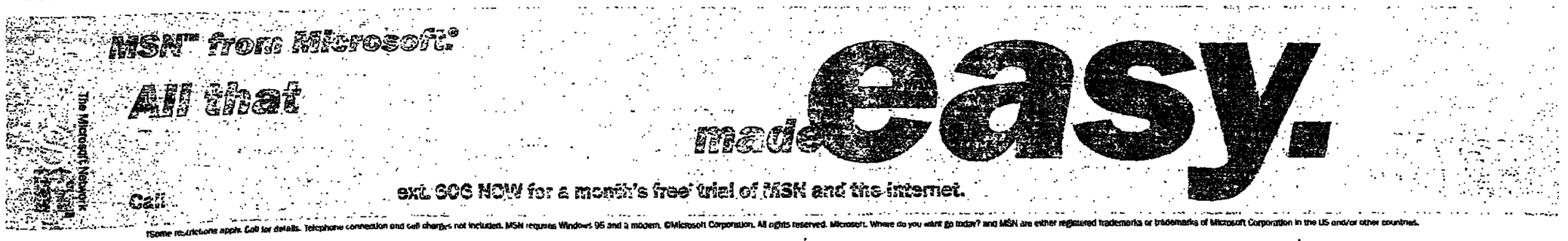
There would be notes to players, before or after a game, on what he expected of them or how they had performed. In 72 matches for England, I cannot honestly think of one bad game by him. He always led by example. He revelled in the tremendous highs and suffered the lows more than anyone. Losing out on the grand slam to Scotland in 1990 cut him up badly, which made the slams of 1991 and 1992 all the sweeter.

Like myself, if Will could play one match over again, it would be the 1991 World Cup final. We should have beaten Australia that day at Twickenham. But it was also another remarkable turning point for rugby union in England, and inevitably Will was at the heart of the change. Sweeping away the last vestiges of amateurism, demanding a better deal for the players and his "old farts" remark, Will influenced actions off the field as well as on it.

As an England player he has actually spanned three eras: 1988 leading up to the successive grand slams; the grand slam of 1995 and fourth place in the World Cup in South Africa the same year; and the transitional season just ended. When he stepped down as captain at the end of the 1996 season, there might have been the temptation to give up international rugby. The fact was that he was still far too good to stand down as a player.

Will played in the five nations' championship this year with a sense of freedom. What was there for him to prove? He plainly enjoyed his rugby, but he was clearly wrestling with the decision whether to retire. I mourn his departure from the international game but welcome his decision. It was the right one. Why should he put himself under that pressure again, when he has achieved so much? The England team that Will played in this season had changed so much. I did not realise how much myself, until the surprise call to me from Jack Rowell to join the squad for the last match in Wales. Although I felt like the spectre at the feast, it was a lovely, emotional moment to share in Jonathan Davies's last game for Wales and what I know now was Will's last appearance in an England shirt. There will never be another like Will, nor like his England 1991 vintage.

Simon Barnes, page 33
Right timing, page 33



Hill's rapid descent clouding ITV's horizons



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

According to Murray Walker, "there are a lot of people who think the Formula One season doesn't really begin until we get to Europe." Among them, I would imagine, are his bosses at ITV. This was what they had paid all those millions of pounds for — a Saturday lunchtime assault on *Grandstand*, a splash and dash at teatime and then more than 2½ hours of ratings-grabbing sport on Sunday afternoon. Now, if they could just do something about Damon Hill ...

Actually, the reality is that Hill's miserable run has made surprisingly little difference. *The ITV coverage has been* good enough and the racing competitive enough for it really not to matter. Nor are they *allowing the ever-loyal Walker* to wallow in his friend's failure. Over the weekend the longest we saw of the world champion was a 30-second appearance on the short tea-time update.

Nor are the commercial breaks anything like the irritant I expected them to be, although that is largely because the German-language version of RTL also carries Formula One live. Anyone equipped with a satellite dish *can simply swap between the* channels, just as we did when the BBC and Eurosport shared coverage. Only rarely *do they take their breaks at the* same time and yesterday it was the German channel that came off worse, advertising *shower gel as Frentzen came* out of the pits just ahead of Michael Schumacher. It probably ranks as high treason in *Germany.*

Quite what the ITV marketing team will do when it discovers that a proportion of its ABC1 audience is zapping through the commercial breaks remains to be seen, but the production team is doing a good enough job to ensure that *even the most bilingual return* swiftly. Yesterday was about as good as a moderately exciting race will allow.

Apart from sighting a rare blue Ferrari at one point, Walker recovered well from the nightmare of his Argentina practice session and seems to have reached a good understanding with the ever more impressive Martin Brundle. Basically, whatever Brundle has quietly observed, Walker shouts about ten seconds later.

That, though, is nothing to the way he shouts when somebody else is talking while something exciting happens on the track. Yesterday, it was the turn of the enthusiastic but sporadically inaccurate James Allen to suffer. As the pit-lane reporter did a perfectly competent job of interviewing the newly retired Hill, Panis suddenly dropped two places. Walker's microphone may have been faded right down, *but his anguished cries were* still audible.

If the ITV coverage has a star, it is Brundle. His command of the monitors and the electronic timing data, coupled with his recent experience of race tactics, make some of those who have occupied the co-commentator seat sound distinctly amateur.

Both practice and the race were topped and tailed by the increasingly polished triumvirate of Jim Rosenthal, Tony Jardine and Simon Taylor. Jardine and Taylor could talk motor racing until the Minardis come home, but when the red light comes on they do a first-class job.

One thing notable by its absence from the ITV coverage is archive material, an omission which suggests that the BBC is still smarting from its loss. If it is, it is not smarting *badly enough* to stop it asking Walker back to commentate on the British touring car championship.

So it was that, one hour after Villeneuve had claimed pole position at Imola on Saturday, Walker was back at Silverstone commentating on rounds three and four for *Grandstand*. This had less to do with the miracle of television than the fact that the races had taken place almost a week earlier.

The *Grandstand* editors worked hard to turn hindsight into an advantage, with good use of the on-board cameras and even better use of the on-board microphones, but the fact remains that the live coverage that the BBC has planned for later in the season cannot come soon enough.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Nerurkar leads world challenge

RICHARD NERURKAR, the leading British finisher in the Flora London *Marathon men's race two* weeks ago, has accepted selection for the world championships in Athens from August 1 to 10 (David Powell writes). After moving up to third on the all-time Great Britain rankings, with 2hr 08min 36sec, in London, *finishing fifth, Nerurkar said that* he wanted to gauge his recovery before deciding on competing in Athens. Bruce Tulloh, Nerurkar's coach, said yesterday that his athlete felt physically and mentally able to prepare for another big challenge. Nerurkar had been preselected, as had Liz McColgan, who declined. The full squad was announced yesterday.

GREAT BRITAIN: Men: S Brooks, D Buzza, R Nerurkar, D Ribon, P Whitehead. Reserve: M Flint. Women: S Goldsmith, C Hunter-Rowe, A Mair, D Sanderson.

Harlow harvests title

BOWLS: Greg Harlow, a Cambridgeshire bricklayer, ranked No 7 in the English list, came through a strong field *to win the* Churchill Insurance English Bowls Players Association national singles title at Wellingborough yesterday. Harlow opened with a 7-1, 7-0 win over Steve Pearce, of Stour Vale. He then dismissed David Ward, from North Walsham, an England skip 7-2, 7-2, before claiming his place in the final with a 7-2, 7-3 victory over Mike Bennett, of Newcastle. In the final, Harlow was given a stiff examination in the first set by Les Gillett, of Banbury, before eventually winning 7-5, 7-3.

Ijaz suffers pay cut



CRICKET: Ijaz Ahmed, right, of Pakistan, was fined 20 per cent of his match fees by John Reid, the match referee, for abusing Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, during the second Test in Colombo on Saturday. Reid also put Ijaz on a five-month probation, starting on July 1, and he will lose 30 per cent of his fees if *found guilty of breaching* the code of conduct again.

Kite flies to share lead

GOLF: Tom Kite, looking for his first US PGA Tour win since 1993, returned a score of 67, five under par, in the third *round to keep a share* of the lead in the Greater Greensboro Classic in North Carolina. Kite was joined on 202, 14 under, by Brad Faxon, who hit a 65. The pair were three strokes ahead of Ernie Els, Jerry Kelly, Kirk Triplett and Robert Damron.

Win for Scottish raider

CYCLING: Richard Moore, who makes only occasional forays to English road racing from his Edinburgh home, outwitted all the country's elite riders yesterday to win the third and final stage of the Procam Classic two-day event based at Beverley. Moore, 23, escaped with Paul Manning, Great Britain's under-23 road champion, five miles from the finish and they just held their advantage to the line.

Mason leads way

GYMNASTICS: Lisa Mason, of Huntingdon, the British champion, led Great Britain to victory over Holland and Switzerland in the junior triangular tournament at the Spectrum, Guildford, on Saturday. Mason, who defends her British title in two weeks, scored 35.262pts, faltering only on bars for 8.1pts. Her vault was awarded 9.037pts, followed by 8.8pts on beam. She finished with 9.325pts on the floor.

Foreman proves point



BOXING: George Foreman, right, the former world heavyweight champion, won a split decision over Lou Savarese in Atlantic City on Saturday. After a brutal bout, in which Savarese was penalised a point for a low blow, Foreman, 48, said: "I don't understand how he stood up with the shots I was hitting him with. I don't know where he got the strength."

Stearn leads the way

LACROSSE: Di Stearn, the England captain, scored four goals to get her team away to a flying start with a 10-4 victory over Canada in the fifth women's World Cup in Tokyo. There was also a shock result when Australia beat the *United States 6-4. In the* third game, a 9-6 victory over Japan by Wales set alarm bells ringing as a strong Wales team was expected to win by a wider margin.

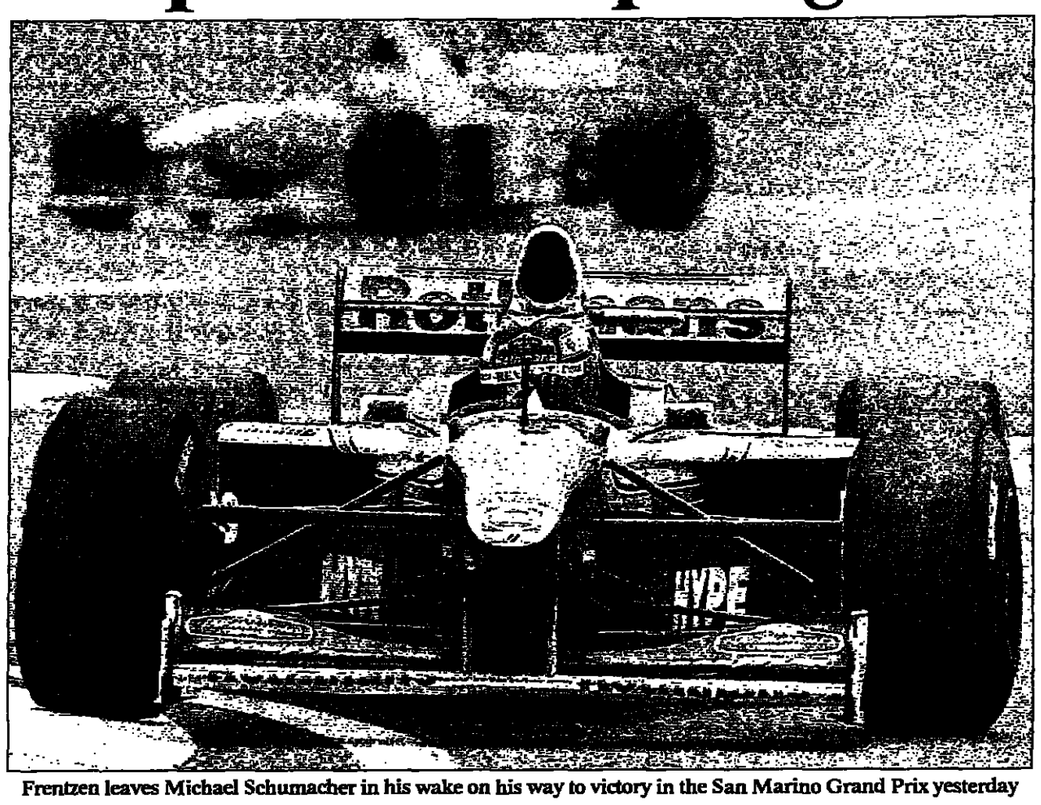
Kiraly strikes gold

FENCING: Hajnalka Kiraly, of Hungary, defeated Taymi *Chappe, the leading Spanish* fencer, 15-7 to take the gold medal in the Ipswich Cup yesterday. The event was the British round of the women's épée World Cup and counts for international rankings. Charlotte Brown, the British No 3, was fifteenth, well ahead of Georgina Usher, the national champion, who finished 32nd.

MOTOR RACING: PROBLEMS PILE UP FOR HILL AS HIS SUCCESSOR AT WILLIAMS RECORDS FIRST VICTORY

Slick Frentzen proves his pedigree

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN IN IMOLA



Frentzen leaves Michael Schumacher in his wake on his way to victory in the San Marino Grand Prix yesterday

THE merest hint of a smile creased Heinz-Harald Frentzen's face as he managed a *desultory wave to the crowds* gathered at his feet. He seemed strangely self-conscious, notably ill at ease. *Success as significant as his* victory in the San Marino Grand Prix yesterday can take some getting used to.

Eventually, when the anthems had been completed, he took off his ubiquitous sponsor's baseball cap, closed his eyes and poured champagne over his head. He could not remember the last time that he had won a race, but amnesia is infinitely preferable to the indignities being endured by Damon Hill, the man whom he replaced at Williams.

The rituals of the podium, where Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine, the Ferrari team-mates, flanked Frentzen, are comfortingly familiar to Hill, the world champion, who, for the first time, showed signs of succumbing to the frustrations of life in Formula One's equivalent of cardboard city.

Hill has yet to finish a race for TWR Arrows. A chapter of calamities here ended on lap 12, when he ploughed into the Prost of Shinji Nakano, the latest Japanese driver to be *conspicuous for the depth of* his budget rather than the depth of his talent.

"We need to get our act *together,"* Hill said after watching Frentzen maintain a four-second margin over Schumacher in another sterile *race dominated by pit-stop* strategy. It is his turn to emulate the softly-spoken German and summon the depth of character to ignore the cynics.

There was a depressing inevitability about the campaign of character assassination, launched by Frentzen's failure to collect a point in the first three races. Allegations that he lacks the nerve to make the most of the sport's most prized opportunity were put into perspective by his refreshingly innocent response to his first victory, in his 52nd grand prix. "This is like oil on my soul," he said, choosing his *words carefully but still strug*gling to invest his improving English with the emotions of the moment. "I tell you, this is *fantastic, a great feeling. It* was my time today."

His team was determined to leave nothing to chance once the threat of rain complicated the agenda. After a wet warm-up session, a milky sun struggled through high clouds and triggered an elaborate guessing game. Williams, searching for a fractional advantage, sent staff down the nearby *Autostrada* to report on localised weather conditions and consulted its satellite prediction service.

Williams opted for slick tyres and were suitably grateful that, for the first time this season, there was no carnage at the first corner. Jacques Villeneuve was quickest away, his smoking tyres proof of his determination to be the latest to brake into the Tamburello chicane. Schumacher outsprinted Frentzen to claim second, a position that he was to maintain until the pivotal *first round of pit stops.*

Hill, forced to start from the pit lane when his Arrows sprang an oil leak on the grid, *lumbered around in last place,* an experience that he "did not enjoy one little bit". He was quicker than the mediocrities *in front of him, but, on the type* of modern track where overtaking is difficult, he was in the invidious position of having *to take risks.*

Matters came to a head after he passed Ukyo Katayama, only to be blocked by Nakano, who spun into Hill's path when Hill nudged him on the entry to the Variante Bassa complex just before the main straight. The resultant collision was violent and inevitably terminal.

"I touched him, all right," Hill said, with a self-deprecating chuckle. "I T-boned him. I didn't want to waste any time and I was fully committed to *taking chances wherever I* could find them. It was always going to be 50-50 whether I could take Nakano, and it just *didn't work out."*

Johnny Herbert's hundredth grand prix ended soon after, when his Sauber coasted *to a halt with electrical failure.* He was fourth at the time, a distant pursuer of Schumacher and the Williams pair, *whose positions were reversed* after the first pit stops, on laps 26 and 27.

Frentzen emerged to find Schumacher in his slipstream, but had the discipline to resist the charge and build a decisive advantage. Villenueve, dropped to third, became an increasingly peripheral figure before gearbox failure prompted his retirement at the *end of lap 41 and promoted* Irvine to a podium place.

It was now a test of Frentzen's temperament. He *could not afford to be con*sumed by worries that, as in Melbourne, he would be robbed by brake failure. He had also to cope with the unaccustomed challenge of leading a race. "It is a different discipline," he said. "Instead of being the hunter, you are the prey; but I am becoming used to pressure. That comes with replacing a world champion, in the best team."

Hill would love some of that strain. His wretched day was completed when a suspended one-race ban was imposed for his part in the Nakano incident. As the song says, things can only get better.

DETAILS FROM IMOLA

RESULT: 1, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1hr 31min 31.006 73sec; 2, M *Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:31.01.910;* 3, E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) 1 32 19 016; 4, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1 32.24 061; 5, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) at 61 laps; 6, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) at 61; 7, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas) at 61; 8, *O Panis (Fr, Prost Mugen-Honda) at 61;* 9, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) at 60; 10, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) at 60; 11, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) at 59 Not classified: P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 53 laps; J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 40; D Coulthard (GB, *McLaren-Mercedes)* 39; R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 32, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 18; R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 17, S Nakano (Japan, Prost Mugen-Honda) 11, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 11, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 4, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 2, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) 0. Fastest lap: Frentzen (42nd, 1min 25.531sec)

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers': 1, Villeneuve 20pts; 2, M Schumacher 14, *equal 3, Coulthard, Frentzen, Irvine, Berger* and Hakkinen 10; 8, Panis 8; 9, R Schumacher 4, equal 10, Herbert, Fisichella and Alesi 3, 13, Larini 1 Constructors': 1, Williams-Renault 30pts; 2, Ferrari 24; 3, McLaren-Mercedes 20; 4, Benetton-Renault 13; 5, Jordan-Peugeot 7; 6, *Prost Mugen-Honda 6;* 7, *Sauber-Petronas* 4

QUALIFYING TIMES: 1, Villeneuve 1min 23.303sec; 2, Frentzen 1:23 646; 3, M Schumacher 1:23.955; 4, Panis 1:24 075; 5, R Schumacher 1:24.081; 6, Fisichella 1 24.596; 7, Herbert 1:24 723; 8, Hakkinen 1 24 812; 9, Irvine 1 24.861; 10, Coulthard 1 25 077; 11, Berger 1.25 371, 12, Larini 1:25 544; 13, Barrichello 1 25.579; 14, Alesi 1.25.729; 15, Hill 1.25 743; 16, Magnussen 1.26 192; 17, Diniz 1:26.255; 18, Nakano 1.26 712, 19, Salo 1:26 852; 20, Trulli 1:26 960; 21, Verstappen 1:27.428; 22, Katayama 1 28 727

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: May 11: Monaco (Monte Carlo). May 25: Spanish (Barcelona) Jun 15: Canadian (Montreal) Jun 29: French (Magny-Cours) Jul 13: British (Silverstone) Jul 27: German (Hockenheim). Aug 10: Hungarian (Hungaroring). Aug 24: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). *Sep 7: Italian (Monza)* Sep 21: Austrian (A-1 Ring) Sep 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring) Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka) Oct 26: Portuguese (Estoril).

GOLF

James gets back on track

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

THE Gunslinger took on the Great White Shark and blew him out of the water, but the big fish took a long time in the sinking. Mark James took Greg Norman to a sudden-death play-off for the Spanish Open title at La Moraleja II yesterday, but had to wait until the third extra hole before he claimed his eighteenth PGA European Tour victory after they had tied on 277, 11 under par.

James, who bears with characteristic stoicism the harmless but unoriginal sobriquet of "Jesse", had played tag with Norman throughout a hot and sticky Madrid afternoon. They were in different matches — Norman, the overnight leader, was in the last group immediately behind James — but it did little to detract from the match-play atmosphere that pervaded the end game of a tactical battle.

Once, twice, three times both men had the chance to take a grip on the tournament, and every time something happened to prevent them from doing so. The prize at stake was £85,000 but there was something more than mere money in it.

For James, victory meant that a calamitous 1996, in which he plunged to 116th in the European money-list, could be consigned to the trash can of his memory while setting him on his way to a belated attempt to earn his eighth Ryder Cup appearance. His first win for more than two years elevated him to eighteenth in the Cup points list and could be the catalyst for a typical push for a place among the elite 12; there are few players more dangerous in a Ryder Cup year.

Norman, meanwhile, must have had the memory of another play-off defeat on the European circuit this year on his mind — he was beaten in the Dubai Desert Classic early last month by Richard Green, his compatriot. The Australian's record in play-offs was not good — won five, lost ten in Europe and the United States. Now it is a fraction worse.

The golf on this final day was a switchback affair, but both regulation play and extra time more than made up for that with the blow and counter-blow that James and Norman slung at each other.

James, who started the day a stroke adrift, had a birdie on the 8th to move ahead by a stroke on ten under and improved that with another *birdie on the 11th, but Norman* sank an outrageous putt from off the green for an eagle three at the same hole to put him level again.

The most important hole of the closing stages was the par-five 16th, the last clear-cut birdie opportunity. James laid up then hit a wedge to five feet and made the birdie putt. Oddly, Norman chose to lay up when the green was within his range, could get no closer than 20 feet and missed.

James, leading by one, had pars at the last two holes for a 69, and must have felt that he was safe when Norman left himself 25 feet from the pin with his third shot on the last. He should have known better, a typically exotic putt from 25 feet putting Norman in the play-off with a 70.

Twice each the two made a mess of things on the first two extra holes, twice each they got away with it, but victory and defeat were sealed when Norman commited one error too many on the short 17th. He came up short of the green; James was short and right but on the putting surface.

Norman chipped; 12 feet short. Terrible. James *putted* from 40 feet; three feet wide. Much better. Norman missed a right-to-left putt on the high side and James put the tournament quietly to rest. It was only a tiny putt; in the context in which it was played, it was *enormous.*

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

277: M James 67, 68, 73, 69; G Norman (Aus) 69, 70, 68, 70 (James won play-off at third extra hole) 278: J Sandelin (Swe) 72, 71, 69, 66; F Romero (Arg) 68, 70, 71, 69 279: J Cocores (Arg) 72, 69, 70, 68, J-L Guepy (Fr) 71, 68, 70, 70, D Howell 70, 71, 67, 71 280: H Clark 74, 70, 69, 67, F Jacobson (Swe) 73 71, 69, 67; R Chapman 70 67, 74, 69 281: J M Olazábal (Sp) 69, 71, 74, 67; S Ames (Trin) 68, 75, 70, 68, T Bjorn (Den) 68, 69, 72, 73, P Mitchell 70 69 69, 73 282: C Rocca (It) 70 70, 71, 71, 283: *A Hunter 70 71, 73, 69, G Clark 72, 69, 72,* 70, M A Jiménez (Sp) 68, 74, 71, 70; J Spence 73, 70, 70, 70, L Westwood 69, 68, 73, 73; G Emerson 67, 72, 70, 74, I Garbutt 69, 70, 70, 74

HOCKEY

Chelmsford back in the big time

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CHELMSFORD and Hampstead and Westminster regained their places in the National League after finishing on top of their respective pools in the Inter-League play-offs that ended at Milton Keynes yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes).

The result was foreshadowed on Saturday when both clubs consolidated their positions with emphatic victories, Chelmsford beating City of Portsmouth 3-0 and Hampstead easily defeating Edgbaston 3-1.

Loughborough Students and Edgbaston, the runners-up in each of the two pools, return to Milton Keynes on Saturday to play off for the remaining place in the first division.

Yesterday, Chelmsford routed Robinsons 4-1 in pool A, with Cullen scoring twice from open play. Van Dijk also scored twice as Hampstead completed an emphatic 3-1 *win against Anchorians in* pool B.

At other venues, Reading, the holders, and Teddington *qualified for the Hockey Asso*ciation Cup final to be played at Milton Keynes on May 11.

☐ Gloucestershire are the *women's county champions* after defeating Dorset 4-0 in the final at Old Loughtonians. Gloucestershire had previously lost the 1977 and 1983 finals.

TABLE TENNIS

Prean prospers as England advance

BY RICHARD EATON

A FINE Saturday for Carl Prean helped England's men to earn a place in the last 32 of the 112-nation world championships in Manchester yesterday. Encouraging victories over Russia, the Czech Republic and, on Saturday, Hungary, which placed England third in their group at the end of stage one, were only partially offset by the disappointments of a 3-2 loss to Japan on Saturday and the 3-1 defeat to France yesterday which ended their chances of moving directly to the quarter-finals by winning the group.

Prean proved a lot of people

Simon Barnes	31
Results	40

wrong. Written off as past his best, he came up with three wins, with the one against the fluent top spin attacker Zsoltan Varga, being vital, because it put his country on *the way to the 3-1 success* against Hungary. Prean's two wins against Kiyonobu Iwasaki and Hiroshi *Shibutani, of Japan, deserved* greater reward, but by Saturday night Matthew Syed, the hero of the win over Russia, was already tiring.

By yesterday the hard working English national and Commonwealth champion was nearly exhausted and could make little of the former world champion Jean-Philippe Gatien, whom Syed has *confounded several times in* the past with his defensive spins. "Matt has to improve his fitness," said England coach Soren Ahlen, who was piloting the Swedes to three European gold medals less than a year ago. "The English players lack proper training and practice and this must be improved before we can do better," he added.

It left England in the same quarter as Sweden, the former world champions, who were given a nasty shock by the second stage draw after losing unexpectedly 3-2 to Belgium and finishing second in their group. If they are to win the title back from the Chinese they will now have to play their great rivals in the quarter-finals, not the final. They also have the added complication that the legendary Jan-Ove Waldner, the former world and Olympic champion, is struggling to find anything like his best form.

Meanwhile England women, who finished fifth out *of six in their group,* eased their relegation fears by beating the United Stated 3-2 in the second stage. A crucial victory was provided by Helen Lower, who saved a match point before winning 20-22, 23-21, 21-15 against the China-born Virginia Sung.

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EXCLUSIVELY in Grand Prix Action

Celtic rivals queue up to challenge Hendry's pursuit of his seventh world title

Morgan finds the strength to foil perfection

ROB HUGHES



At the Crucible

Back stage at the Crucible Theatre, the bow tie askew and the waistcoat unbuttoned, it is a time to release the pent-up emotions created in the Embassy world snooker championship, where an old parlour game is transformed into the theatre of millionaires.

On Saturday lunchtime Darren Morgan, a self-confessed "underachiever" in that he has earned a mere £730,000 in nine years on the green baize circuit, is in tears. He had held his game together, shown only the merest flicker of fear that once again he might not achieve, and then put Ronnie O'Sullivan out of the 1997 event.

He had earned this victory, ground it out through technical brilliance of his own allied to a far more mature, more manly hold on the tactical aspects of a 25-frame, five-hour 49-minute contest. He had eclipsed "perfection", for that is what O'Sullivan achieved in his five-minute maximum 147 break in the previous round.

However, facing the press in the dungeon-like dressing-rooms below stairs, Morgan's eyes became suddenly opaque, followed by the tears.

Later, given time to compose himself, he returned to explain. The question, asking why he had previously declared his season prematurely over, had intruded on his private grief. Morgan's mother, Cynthia, had insisted he lead the Wales team to Bangkok in November, and she had died of cancer while he was abroad. Morgan had taken weeks to come to terms with it, had shut himself away in his house, pretending to his father and to all visitors, that he was practising. "Instead," he confessed on Saturday, "I was doing nothing, just sitting in the chair. Snooker, to tell you the truth, didn't mean very much to me, until I came to terms with the fact that, no matter how much you mope, she is never going to come back . . . if she is looking down now, I hope she is smiling."

Morgan, the snooker player, had risen from the loneliness of the chair in the Crucible and not allowed himself to be daunted by the natural ability of his opponent, nor the ill-luck which had seemed to visit him. Indeed, his moment of truth came two frames before the end when, having potted a long black to equal the score at 61 each, O'Sullivan won the toss of the coin and asked him to take first shot at the respotted black.

"I had made up my mind that if I lost that toss, I was going to go for the double," Morgan said. He did, hitting the black on the full, sending it off the top cushion cleanly back the length of the table and into the left corner pocket at the balk end.

Should Morgan win the championship, and he asserts that at last he has that belief in himself, he will join seven men in this tournament who have won £1 million in prize-money alone; quadruple that, and you have a rough idea of the sums of money that seemingly ordinary people, who would claim neither colossal intellect, nor exceptional athleticism, can accrue through the pursuit of excellence in this sport.

'The art of winning in this arena is to be dispassionate'

If Sheffield is the crucible, then the cradle of snooker now belongs heavily to the Celts. Stephen Hendry, the Scot who has dominated the 1990s, losing here only once in seven years, looks so economical. He seems never to engage full power, either of his game or his emotions. His pursuers include a second Scot, John Higgins, potentially three from Wales, with Morgan, young Lee Walker and possibly Dominic Dale, an Irishman, Ken Doherty, a French Canadian, Alain Robidoux, and a Thai, James Wattana. There is only one place assured in the quarter-finals for an Englishman, the winner between Anthony Hamilton, from Nottingham, and John Parrott, the Liverpudlian who, alone, has interrupted Hendry's clean sweep of the 1990s.

Mind you, Steve Davis, the champion of the previous decade, has not yet accepted his decline in the arena of 900 intense spectators. He comes to the hall with his programmed smile, his body in his fortieth year still lean and honed, his ambition to beat Hendry to the record of seven Crucible victories. Alas, Doherty, his Dublin opponent, displays no reverence for the 1980s, treating Davis like an old video, to be discarded.

The art of winning in this arena is to be dispassionate, to suppress doubts and emotions. Indeed, there are robots around. As the players keep their composure and their calm, two BBC cameras per table circle around them, like silent daleks.

A cough from the crowd is alien, a distraction to concentration; yet the machines of new technology, containing the lens through which the players become millionaires, are not only tolerated, their existence is blanked out.

This much was obvious on Saturday when the temperament of Morgan overcame the talent of O'Sullivan. Three times in the space of a few moments, Morgan laid snookers for O'Sullivan. Three times the younger, arguably most gifted player, lost his rhythm and his powers of persuasion over the balls. Three times he missed, three times he fouled and the smoothest mover around the tables was reduced to a perplexed individual.

O'Sullivan complimented Morgan handsomely after the beating. Morgan thanked Lee Walker, at 21, nine years his junior, but a player from the same Red Dragon club in Crosskeys, in Wales.

Walker had won less than £300 as a professional before increasing that by £31,500 by reaching the quarter-finals at the weekend. "We support one another," Morgan said, "but it was Lee who said to me that if I had a head on my shoulders, I'd have been world champion a long time ago. I haven't believed, but I am just starting to think that it is my time."

As he spoke, O'Sullivan left the Crucible. The swagger in the hips, as slender and as rhythmic as a matador's, had lost a little of its arrogance. He was going home, with a bonus of £147,000, £1,000 a point for his five minutes of perfection and he neither seemed to see nor hear the groupies who waited for him by the back door. One or two of them had mascara running down their cheeks; it was hard to tell whether that was because of Sheffield's rain, or more tears, shed because the pin-up boy had been put in his place by the underachiever from the valleys.

ERIC WHITEHEAD



Morgan is a study in concentration, holding himself together to defeat O'Sullivan in the deciding frame of their match

Higgins makes quiet progress

BY PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS, basking in relative anonymity, took a significant step towards the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship in Sheffield yesterday by impressively establishing a 6-2 lead over Dominic Dale.

Higgins, a Scot, who compiled three century breaks during a first-round win over Graham Horne yet received none of the attention afforded Stephen Hendry or Ronnie O'Sullivan in the first week of the event, again scored heavily. Although Dale, one of a number of snooker's supporting cast to make a refreshing impact at the tournament, shared the opening two frames, Higgins, renowned as a formidable scorer, then reeled off the next five thanks to runs of 85, 91, 77, 78 and 46. Even though Dale partially repaired the damage by accounting for the last frame of the session, Higgins holds a healthy advantage entering the final stages of the best-of-25-frame match today.

The outcome of the James Wattana v Stephen Lee encounter is much more difficult to predict. After the firing of the opening salvos, Wattana and Lee were tied at 4-4 overnight, a fair reflection of the way that an entertaining session had proceeded. Wattana moved 3-1 ahead with a run of 112, but Lee made it 3-3 before losing the seventh frame in an extraordinary finish.

Wattana, from Thailand, who had required two snookers on the last red, laid both on the green and eventually stole the frame with fine pots on blue, pink and black. However, Wattana missed a simple yellow off its spot in the next frame and Lee was back on level terms.

DETAILS

RESULTS: Second round (best of 25 frames): D Morgan (Wales) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 13-12; S Handry (Scot) bt M Williams (Wales) 13-8; A Robidoux (Can) bt S Mezzrodi (Eng) 13-9; K Doherty (Ire) leads S Davis (Eng) 6-2; J Parrott (Eng) level with A Hamilton (Eng) 4-4; J Higgins (Scot) leads D Dale (Wales) 6-2; S Lee (Eng) level with J Wattana (Thai) 4-4

TELEVISION: BBC2: 3.30pm, 7.10pm and 11.35pm

William Hill, the onsight bookmaker, clearly believes that the name of Stephen Hendry will be engraved on the trophy for the seventh time in eight years. Reacting swiftly to Hendry's 13-8 victory over Mark Williams on Saturday, not to mention Darren Morgan's unexpected 13-12 win over Ronnie O'Sullivan, they have installed Hendry at 2-1 on to collect the trophy.

Morgan performed admirably to remove the threat of O'Sullivan, while Hendry merely fed off the many errors committed by Williams in the latter stages of an encounter that did not live up to expectations, but, nevertheless, Hendry will be a prohibitively short-priced favourite to overcome Morgan in the quarter-finals. He has prevailed in 14 of their 15 career meetings, including two victories this season, one of which was a desperate 9-8 defeat of Morgan, on the black, in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters last month.

Steve Davis, like Hendry, attempting to win the game's most coveted title for the seventh time, needed to produce one of his famed rearguard actions against Ken Doherty in the middle session of their second round contest last night. Doherty began play leading 6-2 after highlighting a high-quality performance on Saturday with two century breaks.

TENNIS

Rios ends Spanish dominance on clay

MARCELO RIOS, of Chile, ended the Spanish dominance on clay so far this season when he beat Alex Corretja in straight sets to win the Monte Carlo Open yesterday. Rios, 21, from Chile, was seeded seventh and crushed the Spaniard 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in a one-sided match for the fourth, and most impressive victory, of his ATP Tour career.

"I played well and had a great time in Monte Carlo all week — even if I lost some money at the casino," Rios said. As well as defeating Corretja, winner in Estoril two weeks ago, he had disposed of Albert Costa, another Spaniard and the winner of the European season's second clay-court tournament in Barcelona last week.

A semi-finalist here last year, Rios confirmed that he would again be one of the players to watch on the slow surfaces after a lacklustre hard-court season. A versatile player, as comfortable at the baseline as at the net, the Chilean mastered the windy conditions far better than Corretja, seeded No 12, who looked tired and made too many unforced errors.

The most fiercely contested game of the match was the last, in which Corretja saved four match-points. The third match-point saw the Spaniard return two smashes before forcing Rios to push a volley into the net. But Corretja had left his fightback far too late.

He had also saved two set-points in the first set before losing it in 43 minutes and Rios comfortably won a dull second set. Corretja fought harder at the beginning of the third set, but Rios, hitting punishing forehands on the important points, was far too solid.

His task had been made easier by the early defeats of Pete Sampras, Thomas Muster and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the top seeds, but Rios will now fancy his chances in the French Open next month.



Rios: versatile player

FOOTBALL

FA acts on Chelsea Cup tickets

BY JOHN GOODBODY

CHELSEA and the Football Association were involved in a dispute yesterday over the Premiership club's plans to offer FA Cup Final tickets as part of £500 hospitality packages.

The governing body has warned Ken Bates, the controversial Chelsea chairman, that the club can only sell tickets direct to the public for the game against Middlesbrough at Wembley on May 17.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "We have advised them (Chelsea) that they are not allowed to sell corporate hospitality packages, including a Cup Final ticket."

The only organisation allowed packages is the FA which uses Wembley's catering facilities. The money raised is put back into the grassroots of the game.

Chelsea has advertised a package. This includes a reception at Stamford Bridge, lunch with celebrity speakers, a coach trip to Wembley, a ticket and then return transport to the club's ground for more refreshments while watching a video game. The cost: £495, plus VAT.

The *News of the World* claimed yesterday that Chelsea supporters could buy £35 seats for the game if they bought £500 worth of shares in the Chelsea Pitch Owners organisation (CPO), which has been set up to buy the site at Stamford Bridge.

The newspaper quoted an official of the organisation alleging that the tickets had come from a few club directors who "have passed a few on".

Steve Frankham, the CPO chairman, is reported to have said that the arrangement had been cleared by the FA.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Newlove power propels St Helens

St Helens 42
Castleford Tigers 16

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ST HELENS warmed up for Wembley and Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford with a comfortable win at Anfield yesterday.

They saw off the stop-go challenge of bottom club Castleford by running in seven tries, pausing only to stem the spirited Tigers' comeback early in the second half.

Hammond led the way with three tries which earned him the man-of-the-match award but there were several other candidates, including Newlove, who scored two tries.

It was Newlove's strength and power that caused Castleford all their early problems and, although the Tigers lacked nothing in their enthusiasm to impress new coach Stuart Raper, they were clearly a team lacking the confidence that a first win of the season would bring.

After taking an early lead with an Orr penalty, Castleford were forced on to the back foot by the strength of Newlove and Pereline and the guile of Goulding.

Even allowing for a series of handling errors, St Helens managed to run in three first half tries to take command.

Castleford were reduced to 12 men when Tuuta was sent to the sinbin for speaking out of turn and the Tigers were made to pay in the 24th minute, Newlove doing the damage after Goulding had created the opening.

Pereline presented Hammond with the opportunity for his first try — again after Newlove's power had forced Castleford's defence to work overtime.

Newlove was a constant threat and could not be stopped in the 38th minute when he crossed for his second try. He was, however, stopped on the stroke of half-time — but illegally — and Goulding punished Castleford with his third goal.

Martyn increased Saints lead before two tries in three minutes from Vowles and Middleton brought signs of a Castleford revival.

Sadly, the comeback died almost before it could take shape and Prescott ran through a retreating defence to stir St Helens back into life.

Hammond, an ardent Liverpool supporter, crossed twice in a four-minute burst before Orr, Castleford's energetic young stand-off, gave the Tigers some comfort with a late try.

St Helens will be returning to Anfield next season following what they describe as a "moderate success". David Howes, their chief executive, said: "We have the facility to come back to play another game next season and we will be doing that. I estimate there were approximately 2,500 neutrals in the crowd this afternoon."

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Hammond (3), Newlove (2), Prescott, Martyn Goals: Goulding (7). Castleford: Tries: Vowles, Middleton Goals: Orr (2)

ST HELENS: S Prescott; D Arnold, A Haigh, P Newlove, A Sullivan, T Martyn, B Goulding; A Pereline, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynt, C Morley, K Hammond Subs: V Makaufia, A Northey, I Pickavance, P Anderson

CASTLEFORD: G Steadman; J Roach, A Vowles, R Gay, S Middleton, D Orr, M Ford; D Sampson, R Russell, N Sykes, J Lidden, A Schick, B Tuuta Subs: C Allen, A Tonks, L Harland, D Edwards

Referee: J Connolly (Wigan)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Monarchs found wanting

BY RICHARD WETHERELL

ANOTHER heavy defeat — this time a 34-6 drubbing at the hands of Amsterdam Admirals — leaves London Monarchs in some disarray. Al Luginbill, the Admirals coach, said before the game on Saturday that his side was not good enough to win the World League "yet", so where that leaves London is not something that Lionel Taylor, his counterpart, would prefer to consider. His summary was succinct. "We were killed," he said. Both sides now have a 1-2 record.

The Monarchs were unable to score a touchdown and, in their three games so far, they have totalled only 26 points. London's points in Amsterdam came from two field goals by Don Silvestri.

"We didn't beat ourselves, we were beaten by a good team, but time and again we made crucial mistakes," Taylor said. "We have a big responsibility to turn things around for our next home game."

The Monarchs must beat Barcelona Dragons next week if they are to have a chance of finishing with the best record at the halfway stage and, thus, hosting the World Bowl. They were helped somewhat when Frankfurt Galaxy defeated the previously unbeaten Dragons 17-10 on Saturday.

Rhein Fire proved too hot for the Scottish Claymores, who lost 23-10 at Murrayfield yesterday — their second successive home defeat.

SAILING

Admiral's Cup duo suffer double blow

BY EDWARD GORMAN

JOHN MERRICKS and Ian Walker's preparations for the Admiral's Cup this summer have been severely disrupted by a freighting error, which sent their Mumm 36 to Italy instead of Hamble, during which both the boat's masts were smashed.

Merricks and Walker got their first taste of Bradamante, the Mumm 36, that they will sail for Great Britain at Key West and the SORC in Florida in January and February. The plan was to ship the boat back to Hamble for extensive work and training, before the Mumm 36 world championships in Punta Ala, Italy, at the beginning of June.

However, because of an unexplained mix-up, Bradamante was delivered to Italy at the end of the SORC while the Italian boat, which was also out in Florida, was sent to Hamble. The new mast, built for Merricks by Sparcraft, was destroyed, together with the older one.

Yesterday, Merricks was unsure whether a new mast could be made in time for Punta Ala. He has resigned himself to missing out on his boat until the last week of May but he is understandably frustrated that his carefully-laid plans have been turned into chaos.

"The boat was supposed to be coming back for optimisation on the hull and keel and for sail measurement and we can't do any of that now," he said. "We are also missing a week of offshore training. It's just the aggravation of not having the boat back; I suppose it's a good introduction to big boat sailing," he added ironically.

The mix-up is particularly unfortunate because Merricks and Walker need as much time in their boat as possible in order to make the difficult transition from seven years of 470-sailing to keelboats and the very different challenges of Admiral's Cup racing. They started indifferently at Key West but showed definite improvement at the SORC a month later.

In the meantime, Merricks has finalised his crew. With Walker on tactics, it consists of Tim Barrett — the owner of the boat — in the pit; James Stagg as bowman; Andy Hemmings trimming; Simon Fry tailing and trimming; Gerard Mitchell on mainsheet; and David Howlett as navigator.

Like the other two crews in the British team, Merricks has yet to find any sponsorship to help offset the significant commitments by Graham Walker and Tony Buckingham, who are underwriting the costs of the British team. Attempts to find an overall team sponsor by Glyn Charles have so far come to nothing, so Merricks and Walker have started their own eleventh hour attempt to find £60,000 for the Mumm.

Merricks and Walker finished fourth overall at Hyeres in France last week in a 470, ahead of Dimitry Berezkin, of the Ukraine, and Eugeny Braslavets, of Russia.

SQUASH

England's second string deliver trophy

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

ENGLAND'S decision to send their second men's team to the European championships in Odense, Denmark, provided one of the more extended finals late into Saturday evening, but scarcely one of the most exciting.

Without their top four players, who won the world team championship in Cairo 18 months ago, England defeated Wales 4-0. The final finished with a dead rubber between Paul Johnson and David Evans, the second strings, the two most closely matched players, long after most of the audience had left.

Led by Mark Cairns, the British national champion, with Stephen Meads and Nick Taylor in the lower order for the final and Danny Meddings as reserve, England delivered their 22nd title in 25 years of men's European competition, to match the women's twentieth successive victory on Friday.

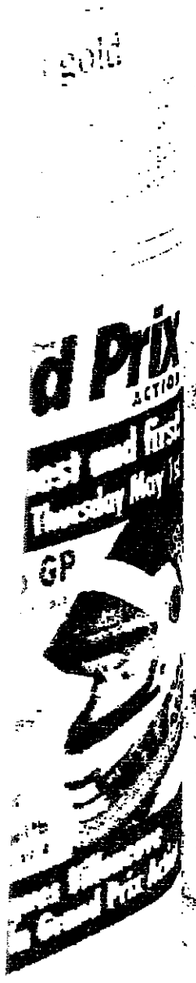
Compared with the authority of the world championship men in 1995, and the opportunism which marked England's unexpected seizure of the world junior men's title last year, however, this was a workmanlike affair that will be noted more for the first appearance in a European final by Wales.

Taylor set England off well enough with a 33-minute 9-1, 9-1, 9-0 demolition of Matthew Benjamin, but Meads was bogged down for 64 minutes in stifling the enterprise of Gareth Davies, 10-9, 9-5, 9-7.

Cairns needed 108 minutes to out-last the inventiveness of Alex Gough 9-3, 8-10, 3-9, 9-4, 9-6, whom he had dispatched with far greater efficiency in the British national final last January.

"It was not a sparkling final," Stuart Courtney, the England team manager, acknowledged, "but there are many sound reasons for giving this international experience to the second rank of a very good English generation.

"They did the job. We came here to win, not to entertain the rest of Europe."



FOOTBALL: OAKWELL SWAYS TO BRAZILIAN BEAT AS VICTORY ENDS YORKSHIRE CLUB'S 110-YEAR WAIT

Barnsley savours champagne moment



Wilkinson salutes the goal that put Barnsley one step nearer to a coveted place in the FA Carling Premiership

Barnsley 2
Bradford City 0

BY MARK HODKINSON

THEY were still dancing in the stands, their feet tapping out a broken rhythm that reverberated above the dressing-room area. These places, the inner sanctums of football clubs, are a world of their own. Ladies carry tea urns and shuffle past young men in tracksuits; directors wearing thick overcoats head to their private bar; the smell of linament meanders through corridors.

On Saturday, at Oakwell, this pungent aroma was sweetened by that of champagne. Every other person who walked by carried a bottle and a smile to match its sweetness. Finally, Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, appeared. Resplendent in a blazer and tie, he leaned against the polished wood panelling. Above him was a notice: "Football boots must not be worn beyond this point."

Wilson has honest brown eyes and a confident but genial manner. His team, cut from the rough stone of free-transfer players, local boys made good and the odd import, had just secured promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. Surrounded by notebooks, he seemed unaware of the magnitude of the moment.

He talked of team spirit and loyalty, camaraderie and wisdom. There was a dignity about his politeness and patience as the world thundered in joy around him. "They have been very good to me at this club," he said. "We believed that we could go up and there has been a good spirit all season."

It may take some time, perhaps years, before Wilson can articulate the significance of Barnsley's achievement. By virtue of assembling a successful team in a provincial Yorkshire town, he has become the champion of the underdog. The heart of every supporter of every small-town club will have skipped a beat.

Oakwell was busy two hours before kick-off. Supporters without tickets held up pieces of paper on which they had written messages like "Loyal fan, ticket wanted". The drizzle caused the ink to wash across the paper.

The Bradford City team coach arrived and, benevolent to the end, a Barnsley supporter shouted to the players as they alighted: "Tha's going down, yer knows." Dickie Bird, the former Test umpire and a Barnsley follower for 56 years, gave the first of scores of interviews beneath a huge umbrella.

Several supporters milled around in sombreros, wearing painted-on, drooping moustaches — Barnsley's style of play has been compared to Brazil's, hence the South American theme. "It's just like watching Brazil," the supporters' anthem, was blasted out. It features a rap segment over which the phrase "Barnsley Football Club" is repeated with odd menace. It seemed more than vaguely incongruous ... just like Barnsley playing Manchester United or Arsenal in the Premiership.

The players, much to their credit, were remarkably unperturbed by the commotion and provided a fine game. Wilkinson headed bravely past Davison in the 21st minute and thereafter the game flowed from end to end, with plenty of scoring opportunities. Marcelle, a substitute, guaranteed the win, and promotion, after a mazy run through the Bradford defence with three minutes remaining.

Stewards and police tried desperately to keep supporters off the pitch, but their ranks were broken soon after the final whistle. When a team has waited 110 years to make the country's top division, there is inevitably going to be some party.

They sang to the rain, danced on the dugouts and demanded that the players returned. Stewards helped the players to clamber through the stands and they duly waved their fists and champagne bottles to the crowd. They threw down shinpads and socks as souvenirs, and Eaden even parted company with his shorts and had to negotiate a return to the dressing-room past teammates who were keen to hurl his jockstrap to the masses.

So it went on. The press box was partially invaded and journalists were unable to phone over copy in the pandemonium as handsets were swirled above heads. In the streets around the ground, drivers beeped their horns and flags were waved at passers-by. Radio phone-ins were jammed with callers congratulating Barnsley. From Brighton to Berwick-upon-Tweed, the goodwill flowed munificently towards South Yorkshire.

As the streets cleared slowly and the drizzle continued, it seemed odd that football, a mere game after all, could galvanise such warmth and sense of community. There was also a gnawing sense of anticlimax — to be at this epicentre of happiness and not to be a Barnsley devotee. Their supporters had waited 110 years: how long will it take for our own dreams to come true?

BARNSLEY (4-4-2): D Watson — N Eaden, A Moses, A de Zeeuw, N Thompson — M Bullock (sub: C Marcelle, 70min), N Redfearn, D Sheridan, A Liddell (sub: P Shirtliff, 62) — P Wilkinson, J Hendrie

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): A Davison — R Liburd, N Mohan, J Dreyer, W Jacobs — R Blake (sub: C Midgley, 79), N Pepper, C Wilder (sub: O Sundgot, 54), S Murray — M Newell, Edinho.

Referee: R Poulain.



Wilson accepts the congratulations of an adoring crowd

UPS AND DOWNS

FIRST DIVISION: Champions: Bolton Wanderers. Promoted: Barnsley. Play-offs: Ipswich Town, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Sheffield United and Crystal Palace. Relegated: Southend United and two from Oldham Athletic, Bradford City and Grimsby Town.

SECOND DIVISION: Promoted: Bury and either Stockport County or Luton Town. Play-offs: Stockport or Luton and Brentford and two from Crewe Alexandra, Bristol City, Blackpool, Walsall and Chesterfield. Relegated: Rotherham United, Notts County, Shrewsbury Town and Peterborough United.

THIRD DIVISION: Promoted: Wigan Athletic, Fulham and Carlisle United. Play-offs: Swansea City and Chester City and two from Northampton Town, Cardiff City and Lincoln City. Relegated: Hereford United or Brighton and Hove Albion.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Promoted: Macclesfield Town or Kidderminster Harriers.

Sport left on sidelines of election

STEVE McMANAMAN



on football taking a general interest

I have commented on social issues that have arisen in Liverpool several times this season. Inevitably, these have brought me to the attention of politicians and, in the run-up to the election, I have received requests to support certain political agendas.

I have declined, not because I do not have any interest, but because I feel it is a private matter. I have never talked publicly about politics or religion. The only reason for me to go public would be because I want to influence people, to change their minds, and I have no interest in doing that.

Politicians have increasingly sought endorsements from sportsmen, pop stars, actors and the like — I suppose it is an attempt to influence the younger generation — but I would not want anyone to follow something just because I did. I don't want to change people's minds. They must judge on all the issues themselves. That is not to say that I do not have an interest or that footballers are untouched by the election — it is not exactly a burning issue in the Liverpool or England dressing-rooms — but footballers are interested in the election like everyone else.

One player at our club came out publicly on an election platform last time and there are others with strong opinions. Too often, though, it is easy within football to fall into the trap of being concerned only with how much money a prospective party might take off you. It happens in every walk of life, but obviously there is a lot of money around at the top of the game.

> 'Some seem concerned only about taxes and such issues'

Some footballers seem concerned only about taxes and such issues, but there is far more to an election than that. Most have been raised in the past few weeks, but one that I think has been ignored somewhat is the whole subject of sport.

The campaign seems to have gone on for ever, but what has disappointed me is that none of the parties seem to have clear policies on improving sporting opportunity in this country. It seems to me that governments could place greater emphasis on the development of sport, especially in providing opportunities for the young. It might seem insignificant, but I think it would benefit the whole of society. Sport desperately needs an infrastructure, building from the bottom, and kids need something to do. By matching them up, it would provide opportunity and enterprise.

While the election reaches its climax, there is the little matter of another important date this week. England meet Georgia on Wednesday evening and we are looking for as big a win as all the political parties. We need to win, it is as simple as that. If we are to catch Italy at the top of our World Cup group, we must maintain the pressure on them. They play a tough match at home to Poland on the same night and there is potential for difficulty that makes it even more vital that we get the victory.

Georgia are no mugs. They are a technically gifted side, who were clearly hindered by the pitch when we met them before Christmas. I am sure they will be better suited to Wembley and we must concentrate hard against them. They did well against Italy, created a lot of chances, and in Georgi Kinkladze, we know from first-hand experience that they have a gifted playmaker.

There has been a lot said about the England side recently, particularly after the defeat by Italy, and we know we have to produce in this match. It has been a long, hard season, but no one needs motivating to play for England.

The international camp has been a strange interlude in some ways this week. We were immersed in the intense battle of a title race, playing four games in nine days, and then suddenly that has been put aside. Here we are mixing with the Manchester United players as team-mates instead of rivals. Mind you, it was even stranger meeting up with Gary Pallister, whose two goals against Liverpool last week effectively ended our hopes of winning the championship.

There has been a lot of speculation about the team and whether the manager should go for the form players or stick with the long-term side that he has favoured. As yet, I haven't a clue who he will prefer and whether I will be playing or not. All I can hope is that, after a week on the campaign trail myself, Mr Hoddle will vote for McManaman.

Premiership door closes shut on valiant Vale

Port Vale 1
Wolverhampton Wanderers 2

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE promotion of Barnsley, on Saturday, to the FA Carling Premiership was enough to induce palpitations among football's controlling elite, but Port Vale? Now that is heart attack territory. Sadly, there was no call for ambulances yesterday. Port Vale must wait another season at least for their moment of improbable glory.

Defeat by Wolverhampton Wanderers means that the Nationwide League first division play-off places are already decided and Crystal Palace, not Vale, have claimed the last berth. It also means that the postponement of the final weekend's fixtures to next Sunday is largely irrelevant, relegation issues apart.

For all their remarkable achievements this season, Vale were second best yesterday to a Wolverhampton side clearly smarting from self-inflicted wounds that fatally hindered their chance of automatic promotion. Yet this defeat and ultimate failure should not detract from Port Vale's marvellous achievement.

They were given a standing ovation at the end of a tense, nerve-ridden affair, and rightly so. What right have Vale to tilt at windmills in these money-driven days? Yet here they were, vying with the relative gentry of Wolverhampton with promotion still at stake. Afterwards, John Rudge, the Port Vale manager, spoke of regret at failing to take the promotion issue to the final weekend; but he can be proud of his team, and prouder still of the work that he has done at Vale Park.

He is the second longest-serving manager in English professional football and has transformed a homely club from musical hall joke to a club that everyone — even the moneymen of the Premiership — must take seriously. Yet this manager, this miracle worker, was close to being turfed out by Vale a couple of seasons ago because they felt like a change.

Full results and league tables ..... Page 30

Rudge's work is a tribute to the virtues of patience and continuity. Vale may have played second fiddle to Wolves yesterday, but, even when not performing at their best, they still pushed their opponents manfully.

Wolves were forced to scrap for every chance, and they finally took a deserved lead after 34 minutes when Obsborne took a corner which Musselwhite, the Vale goalkeeper, unwisely punched straight at Thomas. He accepted the gift with some glee by thumping it straight back into the net. Even then Vale fought back. Naylor missed one chance, but soon after met a Tankard cross on the run and sent an impromptu volley on a bizarre steepling course into the net after 40 minutes. Wolves, though, looking for the advantage of an away leg first in the play-offs, were not to be denied. A minute later Atkins ran from his own half to send a 30-yard shot bouncing past Musselwhite into the net.

Vale looked to Foyle, their 34-year-old substitute, in the second half, which perhaps illustrates why they are not quite equipped for the Premiership. Rudge praised his men afterwards and will be given belated praise himself with a new contract this week.

PORT VALE: Musselwhite, Hill, Tankard, Bogie (sub: Talbot, 46min), Aspin, Glover, McCarthy, Porfiri (sub: Koordes, 78), Mills, Naylor, Corden (sub: Foyle, 39)

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: Stowell; Smith, Gilkes (sub: Venus, 46), Atkins, Williams (sub: Law, 51), Curle, Corica (sub: Osborn 13), Ferguson, Bull, Crowe

Referee: W Burns

Palace limp into play-offs

Swindon Town 0
Crystal Palace 2

BY KEITH PIKE

THE play-offs beckon Crystal Palace once more and logic dictates that, for the second season in succession, they will be found wanting — but since when did logic have any bearing on this particular end-of-season ritual? Palace, for all their obvious shortcomings, still find themselves three games away from a return to the FA Carling Premiership.

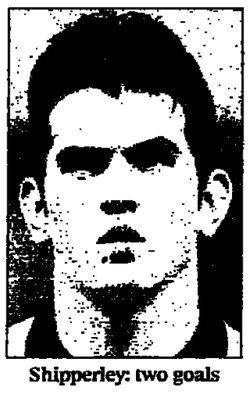
Twelve months ago they went into overtime as the free-scoring, form team, only for Steve Claridge to fluke the extra-time goal past Nigel Martyn that took Leicester City up in their stead. This time, Palace have limped rather than romped to the finish line.

On Saturday they made extraordinarily hard work of beating a poor Swindon Town side, and it was perhaps fitting that their place in the play-offs was secured yesterday by the failure of others, when Port Vale, who needed to win to set up a winner-takes-all meeting at Selhurst Park on Sunday, lost at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

It is a different approach, certainly, but no matter: the mood in the Palace camp was one of mild optimism, and who is to say that it is misplaced?

"The Premiership is so different, that much more classy," Neil Shipperley, the scorer of both the Palace goals, said, and, as a former Chelsea and Southampton player, he knows his subject well enough. "We were quite poor today, a bit lethargic, but we won, and that is all that matters. Having gone so close last year, the team has the experience that might prove decisive in the play-offs."

The top echelon of the Nationwide League is, Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, admitted, "a dog of a division to get out of", but he too, appeared positively stress-free. Five months ago a 2-0 defeat at the same County Ground had prompted his decision to walk away from Maine Road after just 33 days in charge of Manchester City.



Shipperley: two goals

confirming that, whatever the perils that await, the pressure is that much greater further down the table.

Solid rather than commanding at the back, functional but scarcely fluent in midfield, Palace again looked to be some way short of Premiership class. Seven games in 21 days had taken their toll. "We were a bit leg-weary and not sharp enough in possession," Coppell said.

The return of Ray Houghton from international duty will give his team the authority that only Hopkin exercised against Swindon, and it would be surprising indeed if Coppell did not find room in attack for Freedman when league push comes to play-off shove. He certainly gave Palace far more cunning and invention when he replaced Dyer for the last 26 minutes on Saturday.

Shipperley's goals came in the last minute of the first half and the last minute of the second, from a combined distance of five yards. So limited were Swindon, though, that a good team would surely have gorged itself. Palace have yet to convince that they are hungry enough.

SWINDON TOWN (5-3-2): F Digby — W O'Sullivan (sub: S Cowe, 78min), M Robinson, F Darras, G Elkins, J Drysdale — A Smith, D Bullock, T Gooden — W Allsopp, P Thorne

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): C Nash — G Davies, D Tuttle, A Leighton — K Muscat, D Hopkin, A Roberts, C Vear, D Gordon (sub: M Edworthy, 83) — N Shipperley, B Dyer (sub: D Freeman, 64)

Referee: G Singh

Dichio bows out with a flourish

Queens Park Rangers ... 2
Tranmere Rovers 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

ONE goalkeeper fumbled a shot and got away with it. The other fumbled a shot and was punished. Tony Roberts, of Queens Park Rangers, finished on the winning side. Eric Nixon, of Tranmere Rovers, who made a string of excellent saves before his mistake, was a loser.

The decisive goal came ten minutes into the second half. Steve Morrow broke out of defence and shot low from well outside the box. Nixon let the ball bounce out of his grasp. Daniele Dichio, playing his last home game for QPR before joining Sampdoria, of Genoa, this summer, knocked it into the net.

Six minutes earlier, with alert opportunism, he had sent in a close-range shot which Nixon saved superbly. John Aldridge, the Tranmere player-manager, refused to blame Nixon. "It was skimmy on top," Aldridge said. "There was plenty of water. The balls fly when you hit them. I can't really fault him."

Dichio, when substituted near full-time, left the field to sustained applause. He leaves QPR still in the first division of the Nationwide League. Too many points were thrown away earlier in the season. They could even have lost this match for all their opportunities.

After just four minutes, confusion between Brevett and Murray enabled Aldridge and Lee Jones to advance on goal unopposed. Unselfishly, Aldridge slid the ball square to Jones, who banged it over the bar.

QPR's thin blue-and-white line — they use three at the back, with no McDonald — faltered again when Irons finished a sustained run with a shot that Roberts saved; he saved again from Irons in the second half. O'Brien should have done better than wallop a loose ball wide. Later, though, he forced a good save from Roberts.

QPR's second goal came after 77 minutes: fine control, then an inspired pass by Impey, a burst past McGreal and a remarkable shot in off the far post by Spencer. "The effort from the players today was magnificent," Stewart Houston, the QPR manager, said. All, alas, in vain.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-6-1): A Roberts — D Maddix, S Yates, S Morrow — A Impey, P Murray, N Clusshe, J Spencer; G Peacock, R Brevett, D Dichio (sub: S Slade, 84min).

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-5-1): E Nixon — A Thomas, J McGreal, A Thorn, A Rogers — L Jones, L O'Brien, G Jones, K Irons, J Morrissey (sub: P Nown, 71) — J Aldridge

Referee: C Wilkes.

Southend hoist white flag

Southend United 1
Huddersfield Town 2

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

A FEW hundred home supporters stayed behind at Roots Hall on Saturday, after Southend United had been relegated to the Nationwide League second division, to administer the last rites. Some cheered, some jeered, some simply stared in disbelief at the ineptitude that they had witnessed.

"The players will not be coming out," the public address announcer said, stumbling to find the appropriate words. "They feel very sad that they have let you down. We apologise, we are sorry. It's a sad time for all of us ... but will you please disperse."

The stalwarts would not be moved until, eventually, a handful of players, in various states of undress, emerged, embarrassed, reluctant to make eye contact and wanting to be anywhere but out in the open. What followed was no more than a cursory acknowledgement to those who had endured so much this season; a raggedlap of dishonour.

For Ronnie Whelan, the Southend manager, it had been another bad day at the office. "We knew that, if we lost, we'd be down," he said, "yet it seems that a few of the players just didn't care enough. I find it hard to comprehend. The buck stops with me and it's up to me to get us back as quickly as possible, but it's performances like that that get managers the sack."

Had Southend won, against a Huddersfield Town side minus nine regulars because of injury or suspension, they would have given themselves a chance of staying alive. Oldham Athletic, Bradford City and Grimsby Town, their relegation rivals, had also lost. By then beating Grimsby next Sunday — the final day of the season — Southend could have survived.

On the evidence of dull, dire afternoon in Essex, they did not deserve to. They should have been breathing fire and brimstone, winning every 40-60 tackle in sight and launching themselves at Huddersfield like screaming dervishes. Numerous contracts are due for renewal, Whelan revealed later, yet it was as if they were all on £10,000-a-week deals for life.



Whelan: appalled

Vic Jobson, the Southend chairman, shared Whelan's indignity at the surrender. "There was no passion, anywhere," he said. "You can't expect the crowd to show passion if the players don't. Huddersfield did, and they had nothing to play for. There will be changes, there has to be. They're not good enough to get us back up."

Jobson neatly sidestepped inquiries about Whelan's future. The fact that he is reported to earn £4,500 a week, and his agreement with the club has 12 months left to run, suggests that there will be no managerial blood-letting for a while. The pruning and replacing will be restricted to the squad.

On Saturday Huddersfield had eased 2-0 ahead through Payton and Beresford before Southend suddenly appeared to realise what was at stake. Boere reduced the gap, eight minutes from the end, and Francis made two excellent saves to prevent the most undeserved of equalisers.

SOUTHEND UNITED (4-4-2): S Royce — A Harris, L Rogot, K Dublin, S Tilson (sub: M Lappin, 59min) — R Codner (sub: J Hails, 79), M Marsh, P Gridelet, A Clarke — J Boere, P Williams (sub: P Byrne, 46).

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-3-3): S Francis — D Edmundson, S Collins, L Sinnott, J Dyson — T Heary, J Illingworth, M Browning — D Beresford, A Payton, L Glover (sub: P Dalton, 87)

Referee: R Pearson

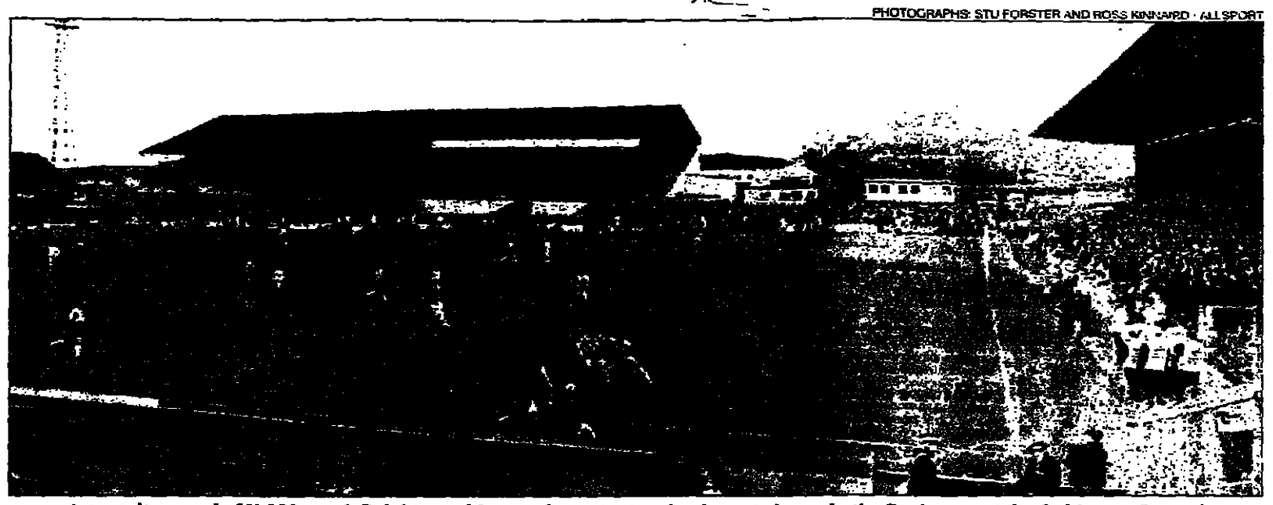
Hope survives after Goldstone's last stand

DAVID MILLER



sees Brighton win 1-0 and hang on to dream of staying in the league

PHOTOGRAPHS: STU FORSTER AND ROSS KINNAIRD · ALLSPORT



A capacity crowd of 11,000 watch Brighton achieve an important and poignant victory in the final game at the Goldstone Ground

An hour or so after Brighton, staging a poignant last match at the Goldstone Ground, had scrambled the victory over Doncaster Rovers that brought them a last-gasp chance of Football League survival away to Hereford United next Saturday, there was a heated debate on a radio phone-in programme.

The first caller, from Liverpool, casually condemned Brighton for their previous crowd disturbances, for which the Football Association deducted two points and which may yet deposit them, homeless, in the Vauxhall Conference. They deserve to go down, the caller said.

The response, a withering rebuke of several hundred words without breath drawn, should have been recorded and a tape sent to every chairman of every professional club, such as the once swaggering, Rolls-Royce-driving Mike Bamber, from Brighton's better times.

Without attempting to defend misbehaviour, the stricken Brighton supporter's words rang with emotion in a worthy advocate's plea: this club, 97 years old, is part of our community, it morally belongs to us, and today's victory, with the appearance of Dick Knight as a new local chairman, has restored our faith and hope after being failed by Bill Archer, a businessman from Lancashire.

It was a voice of passion, still buoyed by memories of Jimmy Melia leading out his men for the FA Cup Final of 1983; a glorious Wembley day on which Brighton, although already relegated from the then first division two weeks earlier, took the lead through Gordon Smith, who might have won the match with the last kick of extra time, when his shot was saved by Gary Bailey. Brighton nobly went under 4-0 in the replay.

More than 11,000 watched the last home fling of a team transformed by the appropriately named Steve Gritt. When Gritt, the former Charlton defender, replaced Jimmy Case, a hero from Wembley, as manager in December, Brighton stood 11 points adrift. Attendances had plummeted as low as 1,900. Until Saturday, they had been the bottom club in the Nationwide League since October 5.

The mood before the match was tense, not just in the home dressing-room. Several hundred police were in and around the old stadium. It was an uncomfortable thought what violence might have been inflicted by malcontent youth had Brighton not won, several hundred disillusioned supporters being gathered outside and some storming a gate near the end. Instead, a police force — much relieved at the advantageous result — benevolently stood by during the emotional aftermath, while hundreds of spectators broke up the wooden seats for souvenirs.

The match had suffered an inauspicious start. Moore, the burly Doncaster central defender, and Baird, the Brighton captain, were soon sent off for exchanging blows wilder than Frank Bruno's. Half-time arrived with Brighton having come no closer than Maskell's hooked left-foot volley from 16 yards that was deflected for a corner.

At 4.15 the terraces suddenly echoed to the chant of "Orient one-nil". Hereford having gone behind in east London. Five minutes later Reinelt, who had replaced the concussed McDonald at half-time — "a tactical substitution," Gritt would smilingly claim later — charged clear, but had his shot deflected to safety by O'Connor, the Doncaster goalkeeper.

At 4.30 on the stadium's old clock — also to be looted — came Brighton's pinnacle so far from a desperate season, a moment that may go down in the club's history. O'Connor punched a high ball partially clear, Morris, the Brighton defender, struck the crossbar and, from the ensuing scramble, Storer whacked the ball home.

Now Brighton wobbled. Horribly. At 4.41 Ireland cut in from Doncaster's right and swept a cross-shot perilously close. 4.47: A Doncaster cross found Cramb free and, just as he shot, Maskell's toe squeezed the ball away.

At 4.52, the crowd mistakenly invaded the pitch thinking that it was over and quickly retreated. Women spectators screamed with anxiety. 4.56: and it was over. Pandemonium. Players went to the directors' box to acknowledge thanks from a crowd that was joyfully chanting, "We-are-Brigh-ton, from-the-sarf".

Brighton have gained a goals-scored advantage over Hereford of three. A draw next Saturday will send Hereford down. Gritt said that his team will play positively for a win. Some devil's advocate reminded him that Brighton have taken two away points from their past 33. "The crowd have made the difference here," Gritt said. Some 3,000 of those will make the trek to Hereford, in prayer.

It has, indeed, been a rare revival. Modestly, Gritt said that, arriving as a stranger and 18 months out of work, he had done no more than "teach them to defend the way I know how".

Knight promised to support Gritt next season. "He's earned the right to put the club up a few divisions," he said. Knight was emphatic that Brighton will find a temporary home in Sussex, on no account sharing Gillingham's ground. By now the surrounding Hove streets were empty — and the old clock had gone.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (4-4-2): M Ormerod — J Humphrey, R Johnson, M Morris, S Tuck — S Storer, J Minton, K Mayo, P McDonald (sub: R Reinelt, 46min) — I Baird, C Maskell.
DONCASTER ROVERS (4-3-3): G O'Connor — J Schofield, D Moore, P Marquis, L Anderson — L Warren, H Cunningham, D Esdaile — M Pemberton, C Cramb, S Ireland
Referee: M Pierce.



Gritt, the Brighton manager, left, leads the celebrations after his side's winning goal



A bugler plays the last post before the match on Saturday



Writing on the wall: a Brighton fan expresses his feelings

Bury show Watford what might have been

Watford.....0
Bury.....0

BY PAT GIBSON

GRAHAM TAYLOR seems certain to put on his tracksuit again, and return to the job that brought him so much vilification when he was the England manager, now that Elton John is back on the yellow and red brick road as chairman of Watford.

Nobody has said so yet, but it would not make much sense to restore "the dream team", as one member of the consortium which has taken over the club, called them, were Taylor not in charge of the playing side. Indeed, it may well have been one of the conditions under which the high-powered group, including Terry Rosenberg, the head of the South African Tennis Association, and Haig Oundjian, a vice-president of the National Ice Hockey Association, bought Watford with a view to building a top-class sporting organisation at Vicarage Road. A ground-sharing agreement with Saracens rugby club next season is already in place.

The first test is more basic. Someone has to lead Watford from the lower reaches of the Nationwide League, and nobody has better credentials for that job than Taylor, who, with John's financial backing, took them from the old fourth division to runners-up in the first, into Europe and an FA Cup Final in the late 70s and early 80s.

The challenge now is to revive those glory days and the size of the task was emphasised on Saturday when Bury, poor relations even by Watford's present standards, not only snuffed out their opponent's last chance of reaching the second division play-offs but did precisely what Watford must now look to do next season — achieve promotion to the first division.

It was almost a microcosm of a season which has been so disappointing for Kenny Jackett, one of Taylor's old boys, in his first term as manager. Watford have scored only 44 goals in 45 games, taken only six points from their past nine matches and could not even capitalise on a penalty, which would have kept their hopes alive.



Taylor: must resume control

Bury, strong, well organised and unashamedly looking for their 23rd clean sheet and the point that would take them up for the second year in succession, had not been in too much trouble until the 87th minute. Then, an exquisite chip from Mooney put Johnson clear only for Armstrong to clip his heels as he was about to shoot. Mooney struck the penalty firmly enough, but it was too close to Kiely, who saved with his knees.

The Bury players mobbed Kiely, the former England youth international goalkeeper, their 3,000 supporters went wild and Stan Ternent, their manager, said: "It gets better every time. We were a bit jittery today, but that was understandable when we were so close, and they gave us a bit of a fright at the end. It is a tough league, with a lot bigger clubs than Bury in it, and it will be even tougher next season — but we've proved people wrong before."

Watford, meanwhile, were left wondering what might have been. "It has been an open secret that Jack Petchey [the previous owner] has been trying to sell the club for some time," Taylor, 52, the general manager, said. "In that atmosphere of not knowing whether we were coming or going, we have drawn 19 of our games. It is as though we did not know whether to win or lose."

WATFORD (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — N Gibbs, S Palmer, R Page, C Armstrong — D Bazeley, R Johnson, G Pennce, C Easton — G Noel-Williams (sub: K Phillips, 55min), T Mooney
BURY (5-3-2): D Kiely — D West, C Luckett, G Armstrong, P Butler, N Reid (sub: D Johnson, 17) — N Daws, A Randall, L Johnrose — T Battersby, R Jepson.
Referee: R Harris.

Webb's parting words increase speculation

Walsall.....1
Brentford.....0

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THE best job in the world — such was the opinion of the array of managers questioned by Alan Hansen during his television documentary into the occupation last week. The view may not hold unanimity after all, however. David Webb and Chris Nicholl appear to be the two most reluctant managers in the Nationwide League.

Webb has already offered to resign this season after suffering verbal abuse from Brentford supporters, only to change his mind. On Saturday, the club laid on free transport to the Bescot Stadium for a game that they needed to win to maintain their hopes of automatic promotion to the first division. For those supporters to break into chants of "Webb out" smacked of ingratitude, but drew a response that they will find encouraging.

"If they are patient, they may get the change they want," Webb said. "Make of that what you will." Yet his side did not play badly. They created sufficient opportunities to have avoided defeat and can claim to have dominated the second half. Rapley, a substitute, and Hutchings had firm headers saved by Walker, and a cross-shot from Taylor almost sneaked inside the far post.

Having led the table for much of the season, before the sale of Nicky Forster to Birmingham City, Brentford must now face the play-offs, but how about Walsall? They are in eighth place, three points behind Bristol City, in sixth, but with games against Gillingham and Preston North End, sides from the bottom half of the table, to come.

Mountfield and Viveash give them resolve at the back, while Hodge consistently had the better of Anderson along the left flank. Their most telling asset, however, is the pace of Kyle Lightbourne, their leading scorer. Lightbourne was a part-time player and truck driver in Bermuda when he was invited to a trial by Scarborough. Subsequently released on a free transfer, he has averaged close to a goal every other game for Walsall since.

The one that did for Brentford was his 25th of the season. He slid in to meet a low cross from Hodge in the 44th minute, and he also drew the best save of the game from Dearden five minutes after half-time.

Nicholl recognises the likelihood of losing Lightbourne during the summer, but is less talkative about his own future. "I do not want other people knowing about it; my future is my business," Nicholl said. That is not good enough. Those who pay good money to support Walsall are entitled to feel that it is their business, too.

WALSALL (3-4-3): J Walker — W Evans, D Mountfield, A Viveash — C Ntamark, D Bradley (sub: A Watson, 77min), M Butler, M Blake — J Hodge, K Lightbourne, D Beckford
BRENTFORD (4-4-2): F Dearden — B Statham, C Hutchings, J Bates, I Anderson — R Taylor, P Smith, D McGhee, K Dennis — J Omoge (sub: K Rapley, 54), C Acabo
Referee: E Wolstenholme

Dalglish to plan for the future

KENNY DALGLISH is ready to begin the rebuilding of the Newcastle United side that he inherited from Kevin Keegan with three signings. Temur Ketsbaia, the Georgia midfield player, Jon Dahl Tomasson, the Denmark forward, and Ricky Gillies, of St Mirren, are all likely to sign before the start of next season.

Gillies, the Scotland Under-21 midfield player, could be the first to sign after holding talks at St James' Park today. He has also been on trial at Liverpool and Tony Fitzpatrick, the St Mirren manager, said: "We have given the player permission to have talks with Newcastle, but we have kept Liverpool aware of the situation too." The fee is likely to be in the region of £500,000.

Ketsbaia, who could play against England at Wembley on Wednesday, has confirmed that he will join Newcastle on a free transfer from AEK Athens. "I met members of the Newcastle board on Thursday and we are still having talks," he said. "The only thing that is missing is my signature on a piece of paper but that is coming."

Tomasson, of SC Heerenveen, who is the leading scorer in Holland, said: "I have discussed terms at length with Newcastle over the past couple of days and spoken to my friends in the Denmark camp. Peter Schmeichel and Allan Nielsen. They have told me that England would be a good move and that Newcastle is a big club."

Macclesfield home in on Conference title

Macclesfield Town.....4
Bromsgrove Rovers.....0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE manner in which Macclesfield Town ruthlessly ended the Vauxhall Conference life of Bromsgrove Rovers at Moss Rose on Saturday suggests that they should have little problem in bringing their own tenure in the top flight of non-league football to a more satisfying conclusion within the next week.

Victory, either away to Halifax Town on Wednesday or Kettering Town on Saturday, will ensure promotion to the Nationwide League and be a heart-warming triumph for Sammy McIlroy and a squad cut to the bare bones in the wake of the hole in the club's finances blown by the suicide of Arthur Jones, the chairman, last September. "It would be my greatest achievement in football," McIlroy said, topping Manchester United and Northern Ireland glory days and Wembley appearances.

In front of 3,004 people, the sort of crowd that "would give us a chance" at a higher level, according to McIlroy, Macclesfield wrapped up their home programme with another feast to follow the 5-0 thumping of Woking last Wednesday. The local shoppers who followed the urgings of leaflets handed to them to add their weight to "Sammy's promotion push" were well rewarded.

Edey let Bromsgrove off the hook when Taylor dived to his right to block his penalty after five minutes, but the dismissal of Smith, the central defender, who had brought down Askey to concede the kick, left a gaping hole in their rearguard.

Led by the tirelessly resourceful Sorvel and Wood, embellished by dazzling touches by Askey and fancy footwork by Byrne and Williams, Macclesfield spun silken patterns that swiftly sealed Bromsgrove's fate. A header by Payne from a corner, two goals taken at the second attempt by Williams and a penalty emphatically put to Taylor's left by Davenport, the old hand, put them out of sight by half-time.

The second half faded as early chances went begging and substitutions were made, but the Macclesfield supporters supplied a streaker and Bromsgrove supporters provided fancy-dress frolics in the rain — goalkeeper Taylor was persuaded to try a bishop's mitre for size — as end-of-an-era emotions took over in both camps.

Such is the cruel concertina crush of the end-of-season programme that Macclesfield will tonight be able to debate the momentous days ahead with the one team that can overhaul them, Kidderminster Harriers, after they have taken each other on in the second leg of the Spalding Cup final at Aggborough.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — D Tinson, N Howarth, S Payne, C Edey — J Askey (sub: N Mitchell, 74min), C Byrne (sub: M Bradshaw, 74), N Sorvel, S Wood — P Davenport (sub: N Peel, 67), C Williams
BROMSGROVE ROVERS (4-4-2): C Taylor — A Wilgrass, A Smith, P Wardle, S Brighton — R Elmes (sub: C Smith, 74), M Crisp, N Amos, C White — A Mainwaring, S Taylor.
Referee: R Naye.

Di Canio collects Celtic's sole silver

For one day of the year at least, football players are filled with a spirit of Christian charity. Indeed, they do not stop at forgiveness. Rather than simply turning the other cheek, they gather to fête the man who has caused them the greatest torment. In Glasgow last night, Paolo di Canio, of Celtic, received the Scottish players' player of the year award.

It will be the only prize collected by his club this season and the Italian finished ahead of Brian Laudrup, the Rangers forward, by a handful of votes. The development of Di Canio's reputation has been one of the most intriguing sub-plots in Scottish football of late.

After his signing from AC Milan for £900,000, nine months ago, he was draped in the usual clichés and seemed intent on living up to them. His behaviour begs a pundit to invoke Latin temperament. For Di Canio, gesture is integral to expression and you could render him mute by tying his hands behind his back. A love of opera is another reckless piece of conformity to stereotype.

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

From the first sighting of the BMW Z3 that he brought with him to Scotland, a concern with style has also been apparent. When kitted out with his green club blazer, a garment reminiscent of the uniform worn by Glasgow's bus drivers, it is reported that Di Canio recoiled and argued desperately that he should be allowed to pay for more fashionable clothing for his team-mates.

Even now, to his cost, he can be caricatured. With Celtic 1-0 down to Falkirk last week in the Scottish Cup semi-final, he fell inside the area as David Hagen attempted a challenge. Television pictures suggest that a penalty ought to have been awarded, but Willie Young, the referee, can be excused for failing to detect the offence.

As well as dismissing appeals, though, he stopped the game and booked Di Canio for diving. Somewhere in the official's mind there may just have lurked a preconception about Italian histrionics. If it had been David Hannah, or one of the other mundane Scots in the Celtic side, who had hit the ground, would Young still have reached for the yellow card?

Although most wingers are accused at times of feigning a foul, it is, for the most part, a wholly laudable drama that Di Canio creates. The subtleties of his dribbling are a delight, but so too are the pride and self-belief that mark him out in every match. "When people like him do have a bad game," Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, has observed, "it will be a real stinker, because they never stop trying to turn it into a good one."

Talk of Italian exuberance is traditional, but Di Canio's strength of mind is also typical of a nation that once again has representatives, this year, in the final of two of the three European trophies. He once played for Juventus and continues to echo their indomitability. As Burns claims, Di Canio is too brave to hide, and, if team-mates have a shameful tendency to evade responsibility by depending solely on his immense efforts, as they did in losing to Falkirk, he is hardly to blame. It is perfectly appropriate that he alone should take an honour from the season while the rest of the Celtic squad is left empty-handed.

In the past five years Scotland's journalists have gone on to present their prize to the man already honoured by the players, but, in 1997, there is a chance of disparity. If the only purpose were to identify the person who can make the most skilful use of a ball, then the press, too, would be left to choose between Di Canio and Laudrup. Important though ability may be, however, sport is also about the individual's will to triumph over circumstance.

In that regard, Jim Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, is quite a candidate. Ditched by Manchester United in 1990 and freed by Dundee in 1993, Leighton, 39, has since surmounted despair. Nor has he had the luxury of some tranquil sanatorium in which to recover peace of mind. His club are still at risk of relegation and, despite his efforts, 51 goals have been conceded in the Bell's Scottish League.

He is best judged at international level and a clean sheet against Sweden in Gothenburg on Wednesday would be his twelfth in succession for Scotland in appearances in the important tournaments. That record matters more than any trophy journalists can award, but Leighton still has this column's vote.

EUROPEAN QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR THE 1998 WORLD CUP

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Denmark	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Croatia	4	1	3	0	9	6	6
Bosnia	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Slovenia	4	0	1	3	4	9	1

RESULTS: Greece 2 Slovenia 0; Greece 3 Bosnia-Herzegovina 0; Slovenia 0 Denmark 2; Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 Croatia 4. Denmark 2 Greece 1; Slovenia 1 Bosnia-Herzegovina 2. Croatia 1 Greece 1, Croatia 1 Denmark 1; Bosnia-Herzegovina 0 Greece 1, Croatia 3 Slovenia 3

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Denmark v Slovenia; Greece v Croatia. June 8: Denmark v Bosnia-Herzegovina. Aug 20: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Denmark. Sept 6: Croatia v Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sept 6 or 7: Slovenia v Greece. Sept 10: Denmark v Croatia. Bosnia-Herzegovina v Slovenia. Oct 11: Greece v Denmark; Slovenia v Croatia

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	4	1	0	8	1	13
England	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Poland	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Georgia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Moldova	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

RESULTS: Moldova 0 England 3; Moldova 1 Italy 3; England 2 Poland 1; Italy 1 Georgia 0; Georgia 0 England 2. Poland 2 Moldova 1; England 0 Italy 1; Italy 3 Moldova 0, Poland 0 Italy 0

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: England v Georgia; Italy v Poland. May 31: Poland v England. June 7: Georgia v Moldova. June 14: Poland v Georgia. Sept 10: England v Moldova. Georgia v Italy. Sept 24: Moldova v Georgia. Oct 7: Moldova v Poland. Oct 11: Italy v England; Georgia v Poland

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Hungary	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Finland	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Switzerland	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Azerbaijan	4	1	0	3	2	10	3

RESULTS: Norway 5 Azerbaijan 0; Azerbaijan 1 Switzerland 0; Hungary 1 Finland 0; Finland 2 Switzerland 3; Norway 3 Hungary 0; Switzerland 0 Norway 1, Azerbaijan 0 Hungary 3; Azerbaijan 1 Finland 2

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30; Norway v Finland; Switzerland v Hungary. June 8: Finland v Azerbaijan; Hungary v Norway. Aug 20: Finland v Norway; Hungary v Switzerland. Sept 6: Switzerland v Finland; Azerbaijan v Norway. Sept 10: Hungary v Azerbaijan, Norway v Switzerland Oct 11: Finland v Hungary; Switzerland v Azerbaijan.

GROUP FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	6	4	2	0	7	0	14
Austria	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Estonia	4	1	1	2	1	3	4
Belarus	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Latvia	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

RESULTS: Sweden 5 Belarus 1; Austria 0 *Scotland 0; Belarus 1 Estonia 0*; Latvia 1 Sweden 2; Latvia 0 Scotland 2; Estonia 1 Belarus 0; Belarus 1 Latvia 1; Sweden 0 Austria 1; Austria 2 Latvia 1; Scotland 1 Sweden 0; Estonia 0 Scotland 0 (in Monaco). Scotland 2 Estonia 0, Scotland 2 Austria 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Austria v Estonia; Sweden v Scotland. Latvia v Belarus. May 18: Estonia v Latvia. June 8: Latvia v Austria, Estonia v Sweden, Belarus v Scotland. Aug 20: Estonia v Austria; Belarus v Sweden Sept 6: Austria v Sweden, Latvia v Estonia; Scotland v Belarus Sept 10: Belarus v Austria; Sweden v Latvia. Oct 11: Austria v Belarus, Sweden v Estonia; Scotland v Latvia.

The 1998 World Cup finals will be the biggest yet with 32 nations competing. Europe will provide the largest contingent, with 14 qualifying places at stake and France automatically included as hosts. Africa will produce five qualifiers, three or four will come from Asia, four from South America, three from Concacaf (north and central America) and one or none from *Oceania (Australasia and the Far East)*. Brazil, as holders, qualify automatically.

The European qualifying competition is based on nine groups. The group winners and the best runner-up qualify. The other eight runners-up will be drawn in pairs and the four winners will also qualify for the finals.

The finals will be held from June 10 to July 12 1998 and will comprise 48 matches. The 32 teams will be divided into eight pools of four and matches will be played in 10 venues, two in Paris (the Stade de *France at St Denis and the* Parc des Princes), Bordeaux, Lens, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Nantes, St Etienne and Toulouse. The final will be at the Stade de France.

GROUP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Russia	4	2	2	0	10	2	8
Cyprus	5	1	1	3	5	12	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

RESULTS: Israel 2 Bulgaria 1; Russia 4 Cyprus 0; Luxembourg 1 Bulgaria 2; Israel 1 Russia 1; Cyprus 2 Israel 0; Luxembourg 0 Russia 4; Cyprus 1 Bulgaria 3; Israel 1 Luxembourg 0; Cyprus 1 Russia 1; Luxembourg 0 Israel 3; Bulgaria 4 Cyprus 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Israel v Cyprus; Russia v Luxembourg. June 8: Bulgaria v Luxembourg; Russia v Israel Aug 20: Bulgaria v Israel. Sept 7: Luxembourg v Cyprus. Sept 10: Bulgaria v Russia. Oct 11: Cyprus v Luxembourg; Russia v Bulgaria

GROUP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	5	1	0	19	3	16
Yugoslavia	6	5	0	1	20	5	15
Slovakia	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Czech Republic	4	1	1	2	7	3	4
Faeroe Islands	5	0	0	5	5	22	0
Malta	6	0	0	6	0	27	0

RESULTS: Yugoslavia 3 Faeroe Islands 1; Yugoslavia 6 Malta 0; Faeroe Islands 1 Slovakia 2; Faeroe Islands 2 Spain 6; Czech Republic 6 Malta 0; Slovakia 6 Malta 0; Faeroe Islands 1 Yugoslavia 6; Czech Republic 0 Spain 0; Slovakia 3 Faeroe Islands 0; Yugoslavia 1 Czech Republic 0; Spain 4 Slovakia 1; Spain 2 Yugoslavia 0; Malta 0 Spain 3; Spain 4 Malta 0; Malta 0 Slovakia 2; Czech Republic 1 Yugoslavia 2.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Malta v Faeroe Islands; Yugoslavia v Spain. May 21: Slovakia v Czech Republic. June 8: Faeroe Islands v Malta, Spain v Czech Republic; Yugoslavia v Slovakia. Aug 20: Czech Republic v Faeroe Islands. Sept 10: Slovakia v Yugoslavia. Sept 24: Malta v Czech Republic; Slovakia v Spain. Oct 11: Czech Republic v Slovakia; Malta v Yugoslavia; Spain v Faeroe Islands

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	5	4	0	1	17	3	12
Belgium	4	3	0	1	7	5	9
Turkey	4	2	1	1	9	2	7
Wales	6	2	1	3	14	12	7
San Marino	5	0	0	5	0	25	0

RESULTS: San Marino 0 Wales 5, Wales 6 San Marino 0; Belgium 2 Turkey 1; Wales 1 Holland 3; San Marino 0 Belgium 3; Holland 7 Wales 1; Turkey 7 San Marino 0; Wales 0 Turkey 0; Belgium 0 Holland 3; Wales 1 Belgium 2; *Holland 4 San Marino 0*; Turkey 1 Holland 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: San Marino v Holland; Turkey v Belgium. June 7: Belgium v San Marino. Aug 20: Turkey v Wales Sept 6: Holland v Belgium. Sept 10: San Marino v Turkey. Oct 11: Holland v Turkey; Belgium v Wales.

GROUP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	5	5	0	0	19	0	15
Macedonia	6	3	1	2	18	10	10
Ireland	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
Lithuania	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Iceland	4	0	2	2	1	7	2
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	5	2	29	0

RESULTS: Macedonia 3 Liechtenstein 0; Iceland 1 Macedonia 1; Liechtenstein 0 Ireland 5, Romania 3 Lithuania 0; Lithuania 2 Iceland 0, Iceland 0 Romania 4; Ireland 3 Macedonia 0; Lithuania 2 Liechtenstein 1; Liechtenstein 1 Macedonia 11; Ireland 0 Iceland 0, Macedonia 0 Romania 3; Romania 8 Liechtenstein 0, Macedonia 3 Ireland 2; Lithuania 0 Romania 1

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Liechtenstein v Lithuania, Romania v Ireland. June 7: Ireland v Liechtenstein; Macedonia v Iceland June 11: Iceland v Lithuania Aug 19: Liechtenstein v Iceland. Aug 20: Ireland v Lithuania, Romania v Macedonia. Sept 6: Lithuania v Ireland, Liechtenstein v Romania; Lithuania v Macedonia. Sept 10: Romania v Iceland, Lithuania v Ireland Oct 11: Iceland v Liechtenstein, Ireland v Romania, Macedonia v Lithuania

GROUP NINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	5	4	0	1	6	3	12
Portugal	6	2	3	1	5	2	9
Germany	4	2	2	0	9	4	8
N Ireland	6	1	3	2	5	5	6
Armenia	4	0	3	1	3	7	3
Albania	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

RESULTS: Northern Ireland 0 Ukraine 1; Armenia 0 Portugal 0, Northern Ireland 1 Armenia 1; Ukraine 2 Portugal 1, Albania 0 Portugal 3; Armenia 1 Germany 5, Albania 1 Armenia 1, Germany 1 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1 Ukraine 0, Northern Ireland 2 Albania 0; Portugal 0 Germany 0; Albania 0 Ukraine 1, Northern Ireland 0 Portugal 0, Ukraine 2 Northern Ireland 1, Albania 2 Germany 3.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Germany v Ukraine, Armenia v Northern Ireland May 7: Ukraine v Armenia. June 7: Portugal v Albania; Ukraine v Germany Aug 20: Northern Ireland v Germany; Portugal v Armenia; Ukraine v Albania. Sept 6: Germany v Portugal, *Armenia* v Albania. Sept 10: Albania v Northern Ireland, Germany v Armenia. Oct 11: Germany v Albania; Portugal v Northern Ireland, Armenia v Ukraine

CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	34	11	3	2	33	14	9	6	3	36	25	69	+30
2 Arsenal	36	10	5	3	36	17	8	6	4	23	13	65	+29
3 Liverpool	35	9	6	3	36	18	9	4	4	22	15	64	+25
4 Newcastle	34	12	3	3	49	20	5	6	5	18	20	60	+27
5 A Villa	36	10	5	3	26	13	6	5	7	18	18	58	+13
6 Sheff Wed	35	8	9	1	24	15	6	5	6	24	29	56	+4
7 Chelsea	36	9	7	2	33	22	6	3	9	23	32	55	+2
8 Wimbledon	35	7	6	4	25	20	6	4	8	20	24	49	+1
9 Tottenham	36	8	4	6	18	15	5	3	10	24	32	46	-5
10 Leeds	38	7	6	5	14	12	4	5	9	13	25	44	-10
11 Derby	36	8	6	4	24	18	2	7	9	18	35	43	-12
12 Everton	36	7	4	7	23	20	3	8	7	20	32	42	-9
13 Blackburn	35	8	3	6	28	19	1	11	6	14	16	41	+3
14 Leicester	35	6	4	7	19	24	4	6	8	20	26	40	-11
15 Southmptn	36	5	7	6	30	24	4	4	10	18	31	38	-7
16 West Ham	35	6	5	6	22	24	3	6	9	12	21	38	-11
17 Coventry	36	4	8	6	18	21	4	6	8	17	30	38	-16
18 Sunderland	36	6	8	6	17	18	3	4	11	15	34	37	-20
19 †Middlesbro	34	7	5	5	31	23	2	4	10	13	31	33	-10
20 Nottm F	36	3	8	7	14	26	3	7	8	16	27	33	-23

†Middlesbrough have been deducted three points

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bolton	45	18	4	1	60	20	10	9	3	38	31	97	(98)
2 Barnsley	45	14	4	5	43	19	8	10	4	32	31	80	(76)
3 Wolvrhmptn	45	10	5	7	31	23	12	5	6	37	27	76	(68)
4 Ipswich	45	13	6	3	43	22	7	7	9	24	27	73	(67)
5 Sheff Utd	45	13	5	5	49	23	7	7	8	29	29	72	(75)
6 C Palace	45	10	6	6	38	21	9	7	7	39	28	70	(77)
7 QPR	45	10	5	8	33	25	8	7	7	31	32	66	(64)
8 Port Vale	45	9	9	5	36	28	8	6	8	21	25	66	(57)
9 Portsmth	45	12	4	7	32	24	7	4	11	26	29	65	(58)
10 Birmingham	45	11	7	5	30	15	6	7	9	21	23	65	(61)
11 Tranmere	45	10	8	4	40	25	7	5	11	21	29	64	(91)
12 Norwich	45	9	10	4	28	18	6	2	12	35	47	63	(63)
13 Stoke	45	14	3	5	32	21	3	7	13	17	35	61	(46)
14 Man City	45	11	4	7	31	23	5	6	12	25	35	58	(56)
15 Charlton	44	11	7	4	36	28	5	3	14	16	37	58	(62)
16 West Brom	45	7	7	9	37	33	7	8	7	30	37	57	(67)
17 Reading	45	13	7	3	37	24	2	5	15	19	40	57	(66)
18 Oxford Utd	45	13	3	6	39	25	2	6	15	20	42	54	(68)
19 Swindon	45	11	6	6	38	27	4	2	16	18	44	53	(62)
20 Huddersfld	45	10	6	6	28	20	3	8	12	20	41	53	(48)
21 Grimsby	45	6	7	9	27	34	4	6	13	29	47	43	(56)
22 Bradford	44	8	5	8	25	32	2	7	14	18	40	42	(43)
23 Oldham	45	5	8	9	27	30	4	5	14	21	36	40	(48)
24 Southend	45	7	9	7	32	32	1	6	15	10	50	39	(42)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bury	45	17	5	0	37	7	6	7	10	23	31	81	(60)
2 Stockport	44	15	5	3	31	14	7	7	7	25	28	78	(57)
3 Luton	45	13	8	3	37	13	8	8	7	33	31	77	(70)
4 Brentford	45	8	11	3	26	21	12	3	8	30	21	74	(59)
5 Crewe	45	15	4	4	38	15	7	2	13	17	31	72	(55)
6 Bristol City	44	13	4	5	41	18	7	6	9	26	31	70	(67)
7 Blackpool	45	13	7	3	41	21	5	8	9	18	24	69	(59)
8 Walsall	44	12	8	3	35	21	7	2	12	19	28	67	(54)
9 Watford	45	10	8	5	24	14	6	11	5	20	20	67	(44)
10 Wrexham	45	10	9	3	35	27	6	9	8	17	22	66	(52)
11 Burnley	45	13	3	6	44	26	5	8	10	23	28	65	(67)
12 Chesterfld	43	9	9	3	24	17	8	5	9	17	19	65	(41)
13 Gillingham	44	11	3	7	33	25	6	7	10	23	34	61	(56)
14 Millwall	45	12	4	7	27	22	4	9	9	23	31	61	(50)
15 Bournemth	45	8	9	6	24	20	7	5	10	19	25	59	(43)
16 Preston	45	13	5	4	31	19	4	2	17	18	36	58	(47)
17 Bristol R	45	13	4	5	33	20	2	7	14	13	28	56	(45)
18 Plymouth	45	7	10	5	19	18	5	7	11	22	40	53	(47)
19 Wycombe	45	12	4	6	29	14	2	6	15	20	42	52	(49)
20 York	45	8	5	9	26	30	5	7	11	20	37	51	(46)
21 Shrewsbury	45	8	8	9	27	32	3	7	12	22	40	46	(49)
22 Peterboro	45	7	7	9	38	34	3	7	12	16	39	44	(54)
23 Notts Co	45	4	9	10	20	25	3	5	14	13	33	35	(39)
24 Rotherham	45	4	7	12	17	29	2	4	13	20	40	32	(37)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Wigan	45	16	3	3	51	21	9	6	8	31	30	84	(82)
2 Fulham	45	13	5	5	41	20	11	7	4	30	18	84	(71)
3 Carlisle	44	14	3	4	36	19	8	9	6	26	23	78	(62)
4 Swansea	45	13	4	5	35	18	8	3	12	25	38	70	(60)
5 Chester	45	11	8	3	30	15	7	8	8	25	27	70	(55)
6 Northmptn	45	13	4	5	42	17	6	8	8	24	27	69	(66)
7 Cardiff	45	11	4	8	30	23	9	5	8	25	29	69	(55)
8 Lincoln	45	10	8	4	35	23	8	4	11	35	44	66	(70)
9 Colchester	45	11	9	3	36	23	5	8	9	22	26	65	(58)
10 Cambs Utd	45	11	5	6	30	26	7	6	10	23	32	65	(53)
11 Mansfield	45	9	8	6	21	17	7	8	7	26	28	64	(47)
12 Scunthrpe	45	11	3	9	36	33	7	6	9	23	28	63	(69)
13 Scarboro	45	9	9	5	36	31	6	6	10	27	37	60	(63)
14 Barnet	45	9	9	4	30	19	5	7	11	14	28	58	(44)
15 Hull	45	9	8	5	29	24	4	10	9	15	24	57	(44)
16 Rochdale	44	10	7	5	34	24	3	10	8	20	31	55	(54)
17 L Orient	45	11	6	6	28	20	3	6	13	21	38	54	(49)
18 Hartlpool	45	8	8	9	33	32	6	2	14	18	32	50	(51)
19 Torquay	45	9	4	10	24	24	4	7	11	21	36	50	(45)
20 Darlington	45	10	5	7	35	27	3	5	15	27	50	49	(62)
21 Doncaster	45	8	7	7	27	22	5	3	15	23	43	49	(50)
22 Exeter	45	6	9	8	25	30	6	3	13	23	41	48	(48)
23 †Brighton	45	12	6	5	41	27	1	3	18	11	42	46	(52)
24 Hereford	45	8	7	9	25	24	5	6	12	24	40	48	(49)

†Brighton have been deducted two points

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	33	13	2	2	44	14	11	3	2	39	14	77	+55
2 Celtic	33	13	1	2	45	9	8	4	5	27	22	68	+41
3 Dundee Utd	33	9	4	3	20	9	7	5	5	25	20	57	+16
4 Hearts	34	7	6	4	24	19	6	4	7	19	22	49	+2
5 Dunfrmline	34	7	4	6	29	29	4	4	9	16	33	41	-15
6 Aberdeen	34	5	8	4	23	19	4	5	8	19	34	40	-11
7 Hibernian	34	6	4	7	17	22	3	5	8	19	29	37	-15
8 Kilmarnck	33	8	3	6	27	25	3	1	12	12	32	37	-18
9 Motherwll	34	5	4	8	22	23	3	6	8	18	30	34	-13
10 Raith	34	3	4	10	17	38	3	2	12	11	32	24	-42

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 St Johnstn	34	11	5	1	36	10	11	3	3	36	13	74	+49
2 Airdrie	34	6	7	4	26	18	9	7	1	30	15	59	+23
3 St Mirren	34	11	0	6	28	21	5	7	5	20	19	55	+8
4 Dundee	34	9	3	5	22	12	5	9	3	20	18	54	+12
5 Falkirk	34	7	7	3	28	20	7	2	8	13	17	51	+1
6 Partick	34	5	8	4	22	20	6	4	7	25	25	45	+2
7 G Morton	34	6	6	5	19	18	6	2	8	22	19	44	+4
8 Stirling	34	7	3	7	23	23	4	7	6	25	32	43	-7
9 Clydebank	34	6	4	7	19	20	1	3	13	10	31	28	-22
10 East Fife	34	1	4	12	15	48	0	3	14	9	44	10	-98

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Ayr	34	11	3	3	30	16	10	5	2	27	17	71	+24
2 Hamilton	34	11	4	2	47	17	10	3	4	27	11	70	+46
3 Livingston	34	10	3	4	29	18	7	8	4	24	20	60	+15
4 Clyde	34	8	4	5	21	17	5	6	6	20	21	49	+3
5 Queen Of S	34	8	3	6	27	26	4	5	8	25	30	44	-4
6 Stenhsmuir	34	4	5	8	18	22	4	5	8	25	30	44	-4
7 Brechin	34	5	7	5	18	19	5	4	8	19	28	43	+7
8 Stranraer	34	5	5	7	15	17	3	4	10	12	30	33	-20
9 Dumbarton	34	2	7	8	21	32	6	1	10	20	31	32	-22
10 Berwick	34	4	4	9	15	34	0	6	11	16	38	22	-41

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Inverness CT	34	13	3	1	37	15	10	4	3	33	17	76	+38
2 Forfar	34	9	5	3	31	19	6	5	4	36	28	61	+21
3 Ross Co	34	9	4	4	30	21	9	3	5	23	18	61	+14
4 Alloa	34	8	4	5	23	21	6	3	8	24	28	49	+1
5 Albion	34	8	3	6	28	21	5	3	9	23	29	48	+1
6 Montrose	34	6	4	7	19	27	6	2	9	22	25	47	+8
7 Cowdnbth	34	6	5	6	22	23	4	2	11	16	28	42	-14
8 Queen's Pk	34	7	2	7	26	27	2	6	9	19	28	37	-13
9 Arbroath	34	4	6	7	17	23	2	7	8	13	24	31	-17
10 East Stirling	34	5	4	8	18	29	2	4	11	14	28	29	-25

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE	(1)	1	STIRLING	(1)	2								
MacKay 21			McCormick 29										
1,902			Bone 81										
Sent off: N Bennett (Stirling) 88													
CLYDEBANK	(0)	0	G MORTON	(0)	1								
562			Hasila 86										
DUNDEE	(0)	1	PARTICK	(0)	1								
Annand 68			Lyons 90										
2,416													
FALKIRK	(1)	1	ST JOHNSTN	(1)	4								
Fellner 5			Scott 3, 82										
3,686			Grant 54, 80										
ST MIRREN	(0)	1	EAST FIFE	(0)	0								
Dick 52			1,900										

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK	(0)	0	CLYDE	(0)	2
399			Carrigan 82		
			McCheyne 75		
Sent off: D Collier (Berwick) 89					
BRECHIN	(1)	1	STENHOUSEMUIR	(0)	1
Brand 39			Little 77		
306					
Sent off: H Calmey (Brechin) 81					
HAMILTON	(0)	1	AYR	(1)	1
McIntosh 73 (pen)			Scott 28		
5,156					
QUEEN OF SOUTH	(0)	1	LIVINGSTON	(0)	2
Leslie 56 (pen)			Bailey 60, 90		
1,511					
STRANRAER	(0)	1	DUMBARTON	(0)	0
Higgins 86			630		

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA	(1)	1	MONTROSE	(0)	0
Irvine 15					
COWDENBTH	(2)	2	INVERNESS CT	(0)	1
Sinclair 13			Cherry

Simon Barnes in the trenches at the world table tennis championships

Nations united by the ultimate in sporting warfare

Ping pong is one of those universal experiences. Children have had running races and jumping competitions since time and legs began, and that is track and field. Football is perhaps the second universal. Most children, and certainly just about every boy that ever lived outside North America, has played three-and-in, even when all they have for a ball in a bundle of rags.

Then there is ping pong. More organisation is required, and more expense, but gratifyingly little of either. Ping pong is as inevitable a game in the Third World as it is in the first. There were 108 nations that accepted invitations to attend the world championships in Manchester, and 106 that turned up. That is serious. In terms of the number of nations competing, it is reckoned to be the biggest event held on British soil — bigger even than the war-hungover 1948 Olympic Games, and obviously bigger than any Commonwealth Games.

Who has not picked up a ping pong bat, who has not dared the big shot at 20-19, who has not felt nerve fail at match point against? Who has not experienced the paradox of the airy nothing of a ball that can travel like a bullet?

Yet ping pong is considered a minor sport, unlike running and jumping and football. Few are aware of Great Britain's struggle to qualify for the deeper stages of the team competition. Oh, and before the ping pong establishment writes to inform me that the game is called table tennis, let me demur.

The phrase "table tennis" is offensive. It contains an apology: "Sorry, we are not proper tennis at all, we are a scaled-down version of the real thing" — but ping pong is a marvellous game in its own right — compelling, violent and quite disturbingly intense.

"Dynamic," Matthew Syed, the Britain No 1, said. "It is *the* high-stress game." Having obtained a first-class degree in politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) from Balliol College, Oxford, he turned down a highfalutin offer to start a career in the City so that he could play ping pong. Recently the subject-victim of one of *The Guardian's* post-modern questionnaires, he sent back the questioner's every irony with power, swerve and topspin.

"Tricks," he said. "Tricks within tricks." That's ping pong. Ping pong is a universal. So is singing. But things develop with time, expertise, thought, instruments: modern ping pong can be difficult to follow and bewildering to the eye, just as the 12-tone technique of Schönberg baffles the ear.

The ping pong server assumes a position of bizarre contortion at the moment of release, to hide both bat and ball from his opponent. Players twiddle their bats, changing the differing faces from forehand to backhand and back again. They stamp on the floor to disguise the sound of impact. Before each match, they scrutinise each other's instruments, lest their opponent be carrying a bat out of hell.

England advance 26
Results 40

Players come in weird varieties of form: in ping pong, more than any other sport, *le style c'est l'homme*. Or *femme*, of course. Loopers, hitters, counter-hitters, backspin defenders, topspin defenders. Others, too.

Syed is a backspin and float defender. One of the many paradoxes of the game is that the defender is more flamboyant than the attacker, standing miles away, till the dining table assumes the size of an occasional table for a small gin and tonic, plunging about to meet the most ferocious shots of his opponent and back-spinning, or perhaps floating, the ball back again.

There are seven titles at stake in Manchester — five individual and doubles titles, such as you get at Wimbledon, plus the Davis and the Fed Cups. Two years ago, China won all seven in China. A repeat at the G-Mex Centre, by no means out of the question, would count as one of the great achievements in sport.

This a game about psychological domination, and the Chinese have that quality above all. They have the knack of dominating opponents even when a handful of points down. Against the Chinese, players surrender unbeatable leads as a matter of routine.

The game is bewilderingly fast, not just in the speed of the ball but also in the speed of the points. There is no time to regroup and change your tactics. You see appalled players watching themselves as they unerringly feed an opponent's strength, unable to tell their hands to stop it. This is a game in which players get trapped, when the stronger imposes on the weaker a kind of psychological claustrophobia.

Most confrontational sports are metaphors for battles and fights, and ping pong is a death duel. It is played at a pitch of violent intensity, yet its missile is the most feeble thing in sport. It is little more than a cloud. This is both the most aggressive of all games and the most harmless. It takes high-combat skills, both in physical and mental terms, but employs this fragile nugacity of a weapon. It is almost as far from physical assault as chess.

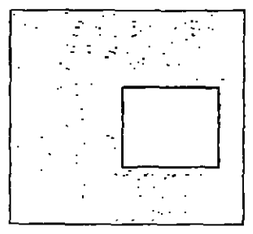
All sports have this paradox — peaceful warfare, harmless combat — but no sport has it to a greater extent than ping pong. That, and its universality, must make ping pong the ultimate sport.

MARC ASPLAND



Trickery and technique serve to add to the universal appeal of the sport

Heavy price to pay for football association



In the battle for the football club with the best Internet web site, Leeds United may make the most noise, but more fun is to be had logging on to the Bolton Wanderers pages. There is a regular update on the building of the new stadium, which will replace Burnden Park next season. A remote-control camera photographs the building site every half an hour to show progress and updates the Internet screen.

Last week the Reebok logo became more prominent as the giant sports goods group — which started life in Lancashire — signed a £2 million-a-year deal to put its name on the stadium. The deal is worth about as much to Bolton as the long-standing arrangement by which Reebok makes the shirts and is the main sponsor of the club.

The arrangement between Reebok and Bolton is a historical one, but it was the starting point for Reebok's challenge to Umbro, Adidas and Nike in the battle to sell football-related clothing to supporters. Reebok has traditionally sponsored individuals, particularly in athletics, where the company made its name.

Its leading footballer is Ryan Giggs, but it also has Peter Schmeichel, Dennis Bergkamp and John Scales on its books. It has deals with international teams, including Argentina, but has had a bad experience with Fiorentina, of the Italian Serie A, and is cancelling the deal because of the club's hooligan problems.

Reebok recently signed up two FA Carling Premiership clubs, Aston Villa and Liverpool, and, last week, Mel Stephens, the company secretary of Reebok International, told of the contrasting merchandising performances of those clubs.

Stephens said that, since launching the Liverpool range in the summer, it has sold £25 million worth of replica shirts, training tops and the like. The figure for the same period at Aston Villa is just £2 million. Though Stephens would not say how much Reebok paid Liverpool to win the contract, he admitted that the deal was so expensive that the company is not making a penny from it.

This is all the more amazing when you realise how much a manufacturer like Reebok makes out of club merchandise. A replica shirt selling for, say, £34.99 will net the manufacturer about £8.50, while handing about £3 directly to the club as a royalty fee. This means that the Manchester United home strip, of which nearly a million shirts have been sold, will bring the club £3 million on top of the reported £40 million that Umbro paid for the rights to manufacture United goods.

Umbro and Reebok say that the deals being struck now are not economic for the manufacturers. The prices have been pushed up because of an attack on the market by Nike, whose agreement to manufacture the Arsenal kit three years ago started the present round of inflation.

Stephens does not think that Umbro will be able to continue to compete in the market. Reebok, Nike and Adidas are big brands using football almost as a loss leader to give them a strong position in the leisurewear market. Umbro operates only in football and is particularly dependent on its two main contracts — United and the England team. Should it lose either, it could struggle.

Which makes it all the more interesting that Peter Kenyon, formerly the chairman of Umbro International, should choose this moment to jump ship and turn up at Manchester United. His title — deputy chief executive — is intriguing, as is his brief "to develop the Manchester United brand". Many see him as a successor to Martin Edwards in running the club, and he may not have to wait too long.

JASON NISSÉ

ATHLETICS

Doctor's rounds lift Birchfield

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE London Marathon has started a trend. After two close races over 26 miles 385 yards two weeks ago, the English national 12-stage road relay, over almost twice the marathon distance at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday, produced the most thrilling finish in its 30-year history. The tension would have been even greater but for an incident that resulted in one athlete being taken to hospital.

Paul Jackson was on the fourth stage for Birchfield Harriers, the pre-race favourites, when, towards the end of his three-mile leg, he began to show obvious signs of distress. "He was like Jim Peters, rolling all over the place," Tom McCook, a Birchfield clubman, said. "I have never seen anybody so white."

However, unlike Peters, whose final collapse 200 metres from the end of the 1954 Empire Games marathon is part of athletics legend, Jackson made it to the finish. Walking and staggering the last 150 metres, he handed his team over in sixteenth place, having set off fourth.

The thoughts of Birchfield athletes and officials were immediately diverted from a victory challenge to Jackson's welfare. Fortunately there was a doctor in the team line-up, a rarity in elite club athletics. Dr Mark Hirsch, a Birmingham GP, was down to run the eighth stage.

"You only see people that colour in hospital," Hirsch reported after Jackson had collapsed into his arms on the line. Hirsch was preparing to withdraw, either to assist Jackson or to cover as overall race medic for Dr Frank Newton, while he treated the athlete. Neither proved necessary.

Jackson was taken to hospital and was released that evening, having been advised to see a cardiologist. In the meantime, Hirsch determined that Jackson's courage in reaching the changeover should not be wasted, had an inspired run.

"I thought about him on the way round," Hirsch said. "I cannot say whether it affected my performance, but, in worse conditions, I ran faster than I did in the Midlands relay [on the same course]. Bit by bit, Birchfield rebuilt their challenge to deliver a medal into Jackson's possession.

"All he was doing in the ambulance was apologising for letting the team down," Rob Wright, a clubmate, said. Jackson should not feel guilty and should reflect instead on how, but for his courage and determination to reach the changeover, Birchfield would have been out of the race. There was more triumph here in finishing third than in winning without incident.

That is not to dimishish the achievement of Salford Harriers, who won the title for the first time, defeating Coventry Godiva by only eight seconds after 50 miles of running.

If McCook's estimate that Jackson would normally have run about 1½ minutes faster is accurate, Birchfield would have edged out Salford in a tight three-team finish.

All but Darius Burrows, a victim of trying too hard to make up lost time, misjudging his run, performed well. "Two disasters and the team pulling together for bronze medals is a triumph of team spirit," Maurice Millington, the Birchfield manager, said.

Jackson, 32, was called in at two days' notice. According to Wright, hospital doctors said that his condition was brought on by anxiety. Birchfield officials believe that Jackson put himself under too much pressure.

"He has never been put under that stress before and I think it was too much for him," Millington said. "Maybe we should have selected somebody more experienced."

McCook added: "He is the sort of guy who turns out when the club wants him; a team manager's delight."

Ironically, one of Coventry's silver medal-winning team was Glynn Tromans, who has needed two heart operations to correct a condition which forced him out of the race last year when he suffered a sudden tachycardia attack.

PANATHLON PUTS FUN AND COMPETITION BACK ON THE CURRICULUM FOR PUPILS

Contest opens up new fields of dreams

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE decline of competitive sport in state schools has become a cliché in politics and education. Pockets of excellence have remained, usually because of the enthusiasm of individual teachers. Cutbacks in spending by local authorities, pupils working part-time at weekends and the reluctance of many non-PE members of staff to take charge of extracurricular activities, however, have combined to reduce inter-school fixtures and cut entries for championships.

Into this void in London has arrived the panathlon, sponsored by Royal Sun-Alliance, one of the most imaginative ideas in school sport for years.

A total of 32 secondary schools, one from each London borough, compete in nine activities: badminton, basketball, cycling, chess, football, netball, orienteering, sportshall athletics and table tennis. No pupil, however, can take part in more than two sports, thus forcing schools to unearth new talent. Four teams won through to the final.

Peter Yates, the head of PE at Ashburton HS, Croydon, a 900-strong comprehensive, said: "Last autumn I addressed the assembly and told everyone that this was an opportunity to prove that we were the best sports school in London. We already had an extensive series of inter-school events, but the panathlon allowed us to extend the programme."

For Ashburton's first training session, nearly two hundred children attended and £2,500 worth of equipment and coaching was provided for each school by the national governing bodies. Yates said: "What we tried to do was to develop a team spirit. There was no use the footballers practising if the netball players didn't. There were no stars, everyone was together."

Members of staff who had a particular knowledge of sports such as chess or cycling volunteered to help. Right across the capital, enthusiasm welled up. Gordon Secker, the head of PE at Grey Court, Richmond, said: "The event has shifted the focus from traditional team games that we normally do to embrace other interests.

The final at Grey Court last Friday was hectic with nearly five hundred pupils alternately competing and congratulating each other."

All nine disciplines are of equal value with points collated towards the total. Even if the competition were based on playground sport, Inner London schools, such as Hackney Free, will have the disadvantage of a lack of on-site facilities and restricted budgets.

Adrian Mullis, Hackney Free's head of PE, said: "There is incredible athletic ability in Hackney, the highest of all the 12 schools in which I have worked. However, a lot relies on the staff's enthusiasm. You have to badger pupils to remind them when extracurriculum training is taking place."

Mullis believes that the educational philosophy in PE is changing. "There used to be too much investigation," he said. "For instance, here is a football how can I move it? It got the pupil thinking, but is this what we want in PE? Children want to be taught in competitive activities."

The involvement of girls has been another cohesive factor for mixed schools. David Owen, the head of PE at Bishop Ramsey School, Hillingdon, said: "A talented girl at sport is no longer thought to be strange. She's accepted and applauded by other pupils."

The final scores were: Grey Court 192, Ashburton 188, Bishop Ramsey 182, Hackney 164. Some of the competitors at Hackney Free, who had been impressive in the qualifying rounds, found the final a novel and fraught experience. Mullis said: "The competition has got to our team, because they are not used to tense situations. However, I know they have benefited. If we had this event going on in every city and county in Britain, the kids have got to improve and so, eventually, would our national teams."

NETBALL

Law makes difference in cup final

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND captains past and present have exerted a significant influence on league and cup netball this season. While Kendra Slawinski, the former England leader, steered Bedfordshire, her county side, to the Inter-Counties League championship, Fiona Murtagh, her successor, led Essex Metropolitan to the sport's equivalent of football's FA Cup.

It was somehow appropriate that Essex Met's compensation for finishing league runners-up to Bedfordshire was to beat Slawinski's team in knockout circumstances, prevailing 9-5 at the end of a tense final in Middlesbrough last week.

The difference on Teeside was Lorraine Law, Essex Met's 6ft 3in goal shooter, whose height and accuracy from varying angles proved a decisive factor. Yet, over the league season, Bedfordshire's surprise dark horses possessed the greater staying power.

While Bedford and Basildon may be the places to play netball at present, North Durham, the newly-crowned third division champions, are producing an exciting crop of young England and senior international squad members. Significantly, in the under-21 Inter-Counties Cup final, this fast-emerging county ensemble had little difficulty in thrashing Derbyshire 15-6.

Ironically, in one of her new roles coaching the country's brightest youngsters, Slawinski is actively encouraging this North Eastern renaissance.

One leading North Durham club side is Sundale, of Sunderland, and their under-16s competed in the national youth championship finals at Sittingbourne, Kent, this weekend, where they lost 10-5 to Oldham. Oldham also prevailed in the under-19 category, defeating Turnford, of Hertfordshire, 12-9, while Weston Park, from mid-Hampshire, beat Falcons, of Nottinghamshire, 12-6 in the under-23 section.

SPEEDWAY

Poole in tyre-tampering row

BY TONY HOARE

THE Speedway Control Board (SCB) has cracked down on "widespread" cheating among riders after a remarkable result in the Speedway Star Cup at Poole last Wednesday.

Poole beat Eastbourne 73-17, just two points short of a whitewash. When Eastbourne were contacted by the SCB about the result, they claimed that the Poole riders had sprayed their tyres with an acid-type substance to gain an unfair advantage. Tyres made of harder compound rubber are in use in Great Britain this year to slow the sport down, but they create greater wheelspin and the spray is understood to soften them.

On SCB instructions, the referees at Sheffield and Ipswich on Thursday told riders that they would be impounding two tyres from each team for testing. Riders at the Ipswich v Coventry Elite League match, however, admitted altering their tyres and all 12 tyres were taken away after the meeting to be tested by Dunlop, the tyre manufacturer. Jim Lawrence, the referee, allowed the meeting to go ahead because both teams had owned up to tampering and neither would have had an advantage.

David Hughes, the manager of the SCB, issued a statement to all tracks on Friday and wants riders and officials to inform the board of any further examples of tyre-tampering. The statement said: "The problem of tyres being modified [treated] with a substance or substances appears to be extremely widespread." At least six Elite and Premier League clubs are understood to have softened their tyres, but it was the Poole result that brought the practice to the forefront.

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Bob Dugard, the Eastbourne chairman, said that he regretted not confiscating tyres from the Poole team after the match and felt that they should have been thrown out of the competition. "It would have been the only honourable thing to do," he said. "Poole have gone through by bending the rules.

"It's been a tragedy for the new Elite League because people have been looking for any excuse to rubbish it and we couldn't have given them a better one. It leaves a very bitter taste in our mouths because we were humiliated by them on Wednesday, totally unfairly, and that is very difficult to accept."

Peter Ansell, the Poole co-promoter, declined to comment on the tyre-tampering allegations, but said: "There has now been a release from the SCB and we will have to go along with it. I believe Eastbourne were beaten by a superior team and they have blown it up out of all proportion. Are they trying to justify scoring 17 points?"

BOXING

Brown seeks rematch after premature finish

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NEVILLE BROWN is to seek a rematch after his bid for the European middleweight title against Hassine Cherifi, of France, was controversially stopped in the sixth round at Swadlincote on Saturday.

Brown, Brendon Ingle, his trainer, and Frank Warren, the promoter, were disappointed that Daniel van der Wiele, the referee from Belgium, "jumped in" too quickly when Brown was backed up against the ropes and trying to ride out an assault by Cherifi.

Ingle said: "It was a terrible decision. Neville was well in front at the time and he had already put the other guy down three times. So he should have been allowed to fight on. It was very close to the end of the round."

The rematch will depend on whether Warren can entice the champion to make a voluntary defence. "It would be nice to get him back here," Warren said. Certainly, the European Boxing Union will not order a rematch as it will no doubt consider its referee's action justified.

Van der Wiele said afterwards: "Brown was trapped on the ropes and took four or five shots without being able to defend himself. Then I saw a big right land and the eye was badly cut, so I stopped it."

It is a pity that Brown was stopped on a cut because, on my scorecard, he had won all but one of the rounds up to then and had knocked Cherifi down three times, twice in the first round and once in the third. Had he been able to continue, he would almost certainly have won.

Paul Ingle, of Scarborough, makes the first defence of his British featherweight title against Michael Alldis, of Crawley, at Hull ice rink tonight. Having stopped Colin Macmillan, who is a much better boxer than Alldis, Ingle should have few problems.

Ups and downs, page 40

RUGBY UNION: PROFESSIONAL VIRTUES DECIDE OUTCOME OF FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE NEW ERA

Pride bears Wasps to title triumph

Northampton..... 15
Wasps 26

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THERE will be no last-minute tantrums for Wasps, no white-knuckle ride against Harlequins, their London rivals, at the Stoop Memorial Ground next weekend. Amid the rain and local pride of Franklin's Gardens on Saturday, they soldiered on to the Courage Clubs Championship title, unfussy, unpretentious and largely unfancied, but indomitable in the collective pride on which their season has been founded.

Lawrence Dallaglio, an inspirational captain, put a large finger on the virtues that have carried Wasps to a far more convincing title than that which came their way in 1990: "We have maintained what we had in the past two seasons and added to that," he said. "We have become accustomed to professional rugby a bit quicker than others."

Wasps had, in a sense, to pull themselves down before they began to grow, pressurised three years ago by the resignation threat of Rob Smith, their long-serving coach, to streamline their structure, hone their recruitment, make themselves more efficient. When so large a segment of playing experience left for Newcastle at the start of last season, the process of regeneration was force-fed, though it may not have seemed like that at the time.

Thanks to some shrewd purchasing of fresh players and a determination not to break an agreed wages structure merely to chase some overseas player advertising his availability, Wasps can be perceived to have judged the pace of the new era remarkably well.

All the more, given that the spine of the team was introduced only this season: Mitchell and Sheasby, at hooker and No 8, arrived from Harlequins, King at stand-off half from Bristol University and Rees, at full back, from Newport. Only Gomarsall, the scrum half, was there already, although it was Martyn Wood, 20 last Friday, who was at the helm against Northampton.

Whether Wasps are playing the best rugby in England is a moot point, but championships, as Dallaglio himself observes, are won over a season. Wasps suffered their decline in mid-season, largely in the Heineken and Pilkington Cups, yet the European experience has given them an awareness of where they must strengthen the team.

Throughout the season there has been an awareness about Wasps of the game's basic realities, an appreciation that they share with those other men in black from New Zealand. King, whose badly bruised back forced a premature departure on a stretcher, has learnt well, but, on Saturday, it was embodied in Gareth Rees, who kicked 16

Full results and league tables . Page 40

points, taking his league total for the season to 274, and who brought his vision of where and how the game can be played.

Few would have chosen the little chip-kick out of his own 22 in the second half, when the Wasps line was under siege for lengthy periods, but Rees saw it as an attacking weapon on a greasy pitch that would have Northampton's wing and full back floundering. So it proved. Nor was it coincidence that Rees delivered the scoring pass for both tries, to Roiser in the first half and Logan in the dying moments of the match.

That final try concealed the gnawing anxiety that Wasps must have felt in the middle period of the game. Hepher, whose first three penalty goals gave Northampton a 9-3 lead in the opening quarter, kicked a fourth to rein back Wasps' advantage to seven points, and then a fifth, with four minutes to play, which made it 19-15. In between those kicks, Northampton might have equalised, and it is typical of Wasps' season that they did not.

Northampton could seldom put any width on their attacks, but Hepher slipped through the black web with only Rees between him and the line. He accepted the tackle and slipped the ball to Merlin, the No 8, but, as he drove for the line, Reed and Greenwood, the locks, enveloped him in so telling a tackle that the ball could not be touched down.

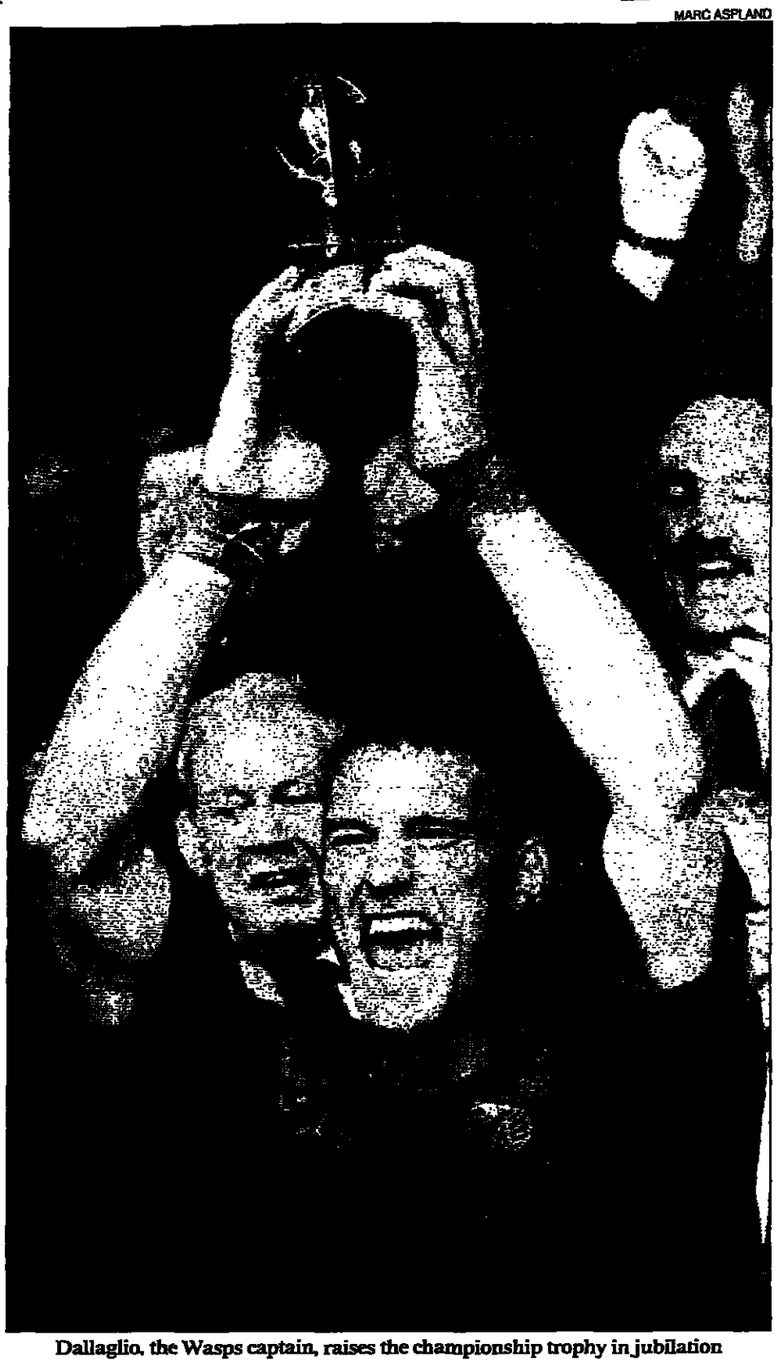
Wasps have learnt, too, from New Zealand not to commit too many players to the ruck or maul, so their defensive line is seldom fractured. Against a Northampton team that lost Townsend with a neck injury midway through the first half, they almost invariably had two players available to tackle the ball carrier, sometimes earning the turnover, sometimes prepared to slow the ball down in a way that is dependent upon legal interpretation for success or failure.

An adverse penalty count of 14-11 suggests that their methods were not always appreciated, but Rees, with four penalty goals from six attempts, kept Wasps in touch and his perceptive pass gave Roiser the space to go outside Hunter and into the corner for his ninth league try of the season.

Logan, too, has scored nine league tries since joining Wasps from Stirling County, but in only eight games. His was the denouement: Northampton, running once more out of defence where they created so many problems for themselves, allowed the ball to go down in midfield and Rees stretched between two defenders to scoop up the pass for Logan to run in and alleviate every Wasps' fear. They have deserved it.

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Hepher (5) Wasps: Tries: Roiser, Logan. Conversions: Rees (2). Penalty goals: Rees (4).
NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter; N Beal, G Townsend, M Allen, H Thomaycroft; A Hepher, M Dawson; M Volland, A Clarke, M Stewart, S Foale, J Phillips, M Bayfield, J Cassell, D Merlin. Townsend replaced by C Mair (26min).
WASPS: G Rees; S Roiser, N Greenstock, R Henderson, K Logan; A King, M Wood; D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, L Dallaglio, M Greenwood, A Reed, M White, C Sheasby. Reed replaced by D Cronin (62): King replaced by J Ufton (76).
Referee: G Hughes (Manchester).

MARC ASPLAND



Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, raises the championship trophy in jubilation

Walker adds gloss finish to final flurry

Cardiff..... 33
Swansea..... 26

By Gerald Davies

IF GREY skies and rain were not what anyone would have wished on the day that the curtain came down on the old Cardiff Arms Park, then the match itself proved a fitting tribute. The old-stagers, you imagined, for all their gouty crustiness, protective of former glories and aware of modern failures, would have nodded sagely and admitted that, in coming to a close, Cardiff's green acres had seen a match worthy of its distinguished past. For sustained rhythm and excitement, clear-sighted tenacity and willingness to attack, this was surely the best of the 26 Welsh Cup finals to date.

There have been moments when Wales and its loyal rugby followers have been presented with matches that give rise to hopes of a brighter future. At each stage, they have been left forlorn. The international match against Scotland this season was the most recent example, a single success followed by a trail of defeat. Yet, while the national team may provide immediate kudos and may portray a resurgent self-esteem, a proper sense of enduring quality must first be discovered in a virile club game.

The style and alluring movement of this Swalec Cup final served as a touchstone, a pattern to which others can aspire. The 1996 final, between Pontypridd and Neath, was a fine match in the sun, but Cardiff and Swansea went further and added a touch of real class. This was reaching out to Europe, as Terry Holmes, the Cardiff coach, was happy to point out. That was the standard.

Booth, aware of his illustrious opponent, Robert Howley, raised his game at scrum half for Swansea; Aled Williams, conscious of his failing as a kicker on Saturday when compared with Jarvis, began running to create gaps for his colleagues and cause havoc for his opponents. The contest among the midfield players — Taylor and Gibbs on the one hand, Hall and Leigh Davies on the other — proved in fulfilled reality what, beforehand, might have been thought merely wishful thinking. Throughout, it was terrific cut and thrust. When the Swansea scrum looked to be supremely authoritative, Cardiff would pick up the gauntlet and respond equally powerfully. If Cardiff looked to rule the lineout, then Arnold and Moore took control. Gwyn Jones was outstanding, Stuart Davies influential. All this in watery and treacherous conditions underfoot.

With the arbitrariness of the conditions, it was with increasing wonder that the crowd looked upon Nigel Walker's progress for his thrilling try in the second half, upon which the game finally turned in Cardiff's favour. The score had been close, Swansea, largely through Aled Williams, had mesmerised the Cardiff defence in the first 20 minutes, a penalty try and a score by Taylor, both converted, a reward for their efforts, Cardiff responding with three penalty goals by Jarvis.

Then, within two minutes of the second half starting, Walker completed the movement of 70 metres that Jarvis and Owain Williams had began tentatively. Four times Walker might have been stopped on his 60-metre run. Four times he got away, balancing on the finest of tightropes on the touchline. A stiff breeze might have been enough to nudge him into touch, but on he went. It was a great try.

Ignored by the Wales selectors, he has often made his own personal statement by scoring wonderful tries. This try simply made a mockery of a selection policy that has seen two centre threequarters play



Walker: talented

out of position for Wales and who have been made to look, dare I say, hopelessly out of place. There is no substitute for pace; Walker has it. Genuine footballing ability is of nature; Walker has been born with it. The sad part for Walker and the sense of deep injustice that he must feel is that the selectors' have not been able to recognise these gifts. Wales would have been richer for his presence.

This try put Cardiff into the lead. By the sixtieth minute, Justin Thomas and Hall had added two more. With Jarvis inevitably converting both and adding another penalty goal, the contest was, it seemed, over, but Swansea revived and, with tries by Taylor and Moore, one converted by Williams, they were almost able to turn the tables.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Walker, Thomas, Hall Conversions: Jarvis (3) Penalty goals: Jarvis (4) Swansea: Tries: Taylor (2), Moore, penalty by Conversions: Williams (3).
CARDIFF: J Thomas, N Walker, M Hall, L Davies, S Hill; L Jarvis, R Howley; A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, H Taylor. D Jones, K Stewart, G Jones, O Williams
SWANSEA: M Back; A Harris, M Taylor, S Gibbs, Simon Davies, A Williams, A Booth; I Buckett, G Jenkins, S Evans, R Appleyard, S Moore, P Arnold, A Reynolds, Stuart Davies
Referee: D R Davies (Llanbradach)

Listless Leicester face battle for European place

Leicester..... 12
Harlequins..... 13

By Christopher Irvine

TOOTHLESS Tigers and tame Lions were easy prey at Welford Road. It was neither a pretty sight, nor a palatable prospect for Leicester, who have lost their grip on the law of the jungle. Unless they scrap a win or draw away to Sale on Saturday — a dress-rehearsal now more important than the Pilkington Cup final the week after — they will lose out to Sale on the last qualification place for Europe.

Three months ago Leicester were Heineken Cup finalists; three weeks ago they beat Wasps and looked capable of catching the newly-crowned champions on the rails. The first of four defeats in five Courage Clubs Championship matches, at Gloucester, dug the hole that they are now in. This listless performance hardly suggested an easy way out.

Last year Leicester were pipped for a double by Bath. If Sale prove to be their *bêtes noires* this time round, their loyal followers will be entitled to some answers. Tiredness is a factor, but their failure to respond to pressure was not only worrying from Leicester's perspective. The inability of a quartet of British Isles players — Johnson, Back, Rowntree and Healey — to rouse themselves had wider implications, with the tour to South Africa imminent.

Leicester have altered with the seasons. Dour last autumn, fabulous in winter and hesitant in spring. Gripped by the fear of losing, they resorted to the route one of set-piece to set-piece, without their usual control or ability.

For the last ten minutes, Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, prowled the touchline. A caged tiger, he looked as though he was about to burst through the bars and assume responsibility. "We needed to keep control of the ball, but we've a lot of people trying to be in charge out there," he said. "We can't have an experienced team, because experienced players are ones who do the right things under pressure."

Paying tribute to Wasps, Dwyer said that they were deserving champions, and highlighted their smartness. Poor, dumb Leicester. All will be far from lost, provided that they despatch Sale twice. The cup and entry into Europe again would be a fair return, but Dwyer is under no illusions about the task, for which Miller is unlikely to be fit by Saturday, although Greenwood, another wounded Lion, should be.

Joel Stransky suffered a dead leg just as his place-kicking duel with Lacroix was getting interesting. With tension rife on both sides, Harlequins had the greater resolve and their back row, Cabannes especially, tackled themselves to a standstill.

Given their French trio, how could Harlequins miss out on Europe? They can guarantee a place by beating Northampton on Wednesday. Will Carling might have called time on England, but he should still get to strut on a continental stage. Before the only try, by O'Leary, Carling looked likely to score. His half-break was stopped by Lewis Moody, 18, who summoned the spirit that older Leicester heads have temporarily forgotten.

SCORERS: Leicester: Penalty goals: J Liley (2), Stransky (2) Harlequins: Try: O Leary Conversion: Lacroix. Penalty goals: Lacroix (2)
LEICESTER: J Liley; S Hackney, C Joiner, S Potter, R Underwood; J Stransky, A Kardooni; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, L Moody, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards Stransky replaced by R Liley (37min); Hackney replaced by A Healey (41); Poole replaced by M Fletcher (69); Richards replaced by W Drake-Lee (69); Cockerill replaced by D West (74)
HARLEQUINS: J Staples, D O'Leary, P Mensah, W Carling, S Bromley; T Lacroix, C Wright; L Benezech, K Wood, J Leonard, G Allison, Gareth Llewellyn, L Gross, L Cabannes, W Davison Bromley replaced by M Corcoran (51); Staples replaced by J Keyter (57); Allison replaced by S Owen (57), A Mullins temporary replacement for Benezech (23-28)
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Weary Gloucester seeking fresh legs

Gloucester..... 20
Bristol 20

By Bryan Stiles

WEST COUNTRY derbies are usually tight, low-scoring affairs, but Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, is convinced that 80 points will be rattled up on the scoreboard by the end of their match with Bath on Wednesday — and all of them will be scored by Bath — unless he conjures up a fresh team.

Safe in mid-table after a season of hard games, his players are jaded. "There were a lot of tired people out there on the pitch this afternoon," he said. "They were dragging their heels ... no zip, no sharpness."

Hill knows from personal experience, as a former Bath player and coach, that they will exploit the weaknesses in his team and pile up the points, so he intends to include some fresh players, even though they may not be as talented as those on display against Bristol in the Courage Clubs Championship match on Saturday.

Hill was right to describe the match with Bristol as "probably our worst in the league this season". It had little of the blood-and-guts endeavour that usually characterises these derby games and this was supposed to be something special — it was the 200th match between the clubs, after all.

Bristol, who are gearing themselves up for the play-offs, did, however, produce short bursts of activity in the second half that brought some shafts of light to a dull day. Also, they had the satisfaction of seeing Jim Brownrigg deputise splendidly for Simon Shaw, their injured British Lion, at lock. He was particularly successful in the lineout, which infuriated Hill, who was banking on much more possession from his own jumpers.

He was also unhappy at the lack of skill that his players showed when they did get possession. With the pitch and ball both greasy, he would have preferred a few more kicks to the corner to put extra pressure on the opposition.

Gloucester led 10-6 at half-time with a try by Carter, a conversion and penalty goal from Mapletoft to two penalty goals from Burke. Lewsey gave Bristol the lead with a try from a five-metre scrum. Burke converted, but Mapletoft made it 13-13 with another penalty goal.

It seemed as if Bristol had seized victory when Maggs scored a try after a minute of added time, but a series of penalties inside the Bristol 22 opened the way for a match-saving try from close range by Mike Lloyd, three minutes later. Mapletoft kicking the conversion that levelled the scores.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Carter, Lloyd. Conversions: Mapletoft (2). Penalty goals: Mapletoft (2) Bristol: Tries: Lewsey, Maggs Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (2).
GLOUCESTER: C Catling; M Peters, C Emmerson, D Casko, M Lloyd; M Mapletoft, S Benton; A Windo, J Hawker, A Deacon, P Glanville, R Fidler, D Sims, N Carter, S Devereux. Benton replaced by L Back (58min).
BRISTOL: J Lewsey, P Hull, F Waters, K Maggs, B Breeze; P Burke, D Dewdney; D Hinkins, B McConnell, K Fulman, D Corkery, P Adams, J Brownrigg, R Collins. E Rollitt. Collins replaced by C Short (41min); Lewsey replaced by D Yapp (74).
Referee: C Evans (London).

Andrew already raising the stakes

Newcastle..... 71
London Scottish..... 20

By Mark Souster

BY NATURE, Rob Andrew is a conservative fellow, but even he acknowledged that, although it is statistically possible, there is more chance of him landing on the moon than Newcastle not making it to the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

So, step one of the revolution is complete, the first target achieved and Sir John Hall can begin to see a return on his substantial investment. Andrew accepts that given "the frightening quality of players and teams" in the top flight, Sir John's resources will be called upon again over the summer as the club looks to augment what is already a formidable squad, adding to the 19 full-time professionals at Kingston Park.

"There are areas that need looking at and we will bring in new blood," Andrew said, after London Scottish had been wiped out in an 11-try deluge. It was the seventh occasion this season that Newcastle had freewheeled their way past 70 points, ripping apart the soft underbelly of the second division on their way to the promised land, which will offer an altogether more demanding examination.

"A lot will depend on how the players adapt to the pace of the first division week in week out," Andrew said. "We have players who can cope, but it is all very well raising yourself for a one-off game; we need to see how they are after 12 league and European games on the trot."

Certainly, Newcastle, even without three of their British Isles representatives — Alan Tait, Tony Underwood and Doddie Weir — all of whom were injured, and two other internationals — Gareth Archer and Pat Lam — were a class apart from a brave but ultimately limited London Scottish side, which has equally grand plans for the future and would dearly love to obtain players, Scots ideally, of the quality that Newcastle have at their disposal.

They were overpowered by heavyweights such as Tuigamala who, once he abandoned his battering ram role, displayed some delightfully subtle touches. The Scots were reeling after conceding a try in the third minute and 21 points in the first quarter, with two tries provided by the combative Armstrong, and another by Graham, his Scottish colleague. Once they had been softened up, it was virtually a procession.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Armstrong (2), Tuigamala (2), Graham, Walton, Childs, Bentley, Arnold, Simpson, O Neill Conversions: Andrew (5), Simpson (3) London Scottish: Tries: Lee, Hunter, Stent Conversion: Lee Penalty goal: Lee
NEWCASTLE: T Simpson; J Bentley, M Shaw, V Tuigamala, G Childs; R Andrew, G Armstrong, N Popplewell, R Nesdale, G Graham, S O'Neill, R Metcalfe, D Ryan, R Arnold, P Walton Shaw replaced by A Blyth (53min); O'Neill replaced by H Vyvyan (70)
LONDON SCOTTISH: D Lee, T Watson, M Sly, A Furley, N Robinson; I Stent, D Millard; P Johnstone, I Mackenzie, P Burnell, M Duthie, E Jones, R Hunter, A Jankovich, C Tarbuck. Robinson replaced by C Morley (41min); Jankovich replaced by G Wakeford (55). Mackenzie replaced by J McLellan (66).
Referee: T Rossal (Liverpool).

Bath coach pours cold water on record win

Bath..... 84
Sale..... 7

By Peter Bills

SCRUTINY of this scoreline from the Courage Clubs Championship would surely invoke undiluted delight from the Bath management. A 12-try haul and record league win despite teeming rain, supreme form from Catt and Guscott, the playmakers-in-chief, and another barn-storming display up front by Lyle, the American — it seemed ideal.

Not a bit of it. Sale fielded a second team, denuded of their leading performers by a fixture pile-up of seven games in 24 days, and Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, dismissed an afternoon's deeply unsatisfying rugby of 91 points by saying: "That tells us nothing about Bath rugby club. It was a nothing game, the challenge wasn't there. Just an exhibition match."

Robinson knows that, unless the season is restructured, Bath could be in the same plight next winter as Leicester and Sale this season. "You will get the same mess for the successful teams, because, if a side does well in Europe and the Pilkington Cup, it will have at least five games to catch up — more if the weather is bad."

Robinson advocates two midweek matches in September — when grounds and players are in peak condition — and a Christmas league fixture to attract the crowds.

That Bath should confirm their qualification for Europe in such a lop-sided contest, devalues the league. So, too, does Sale's contention that their league match with Leicester on Saturday for the last Heineken Cup place means more than the Pilkington Cup final a week later.

Happily, some things in rugby never change, such as the combative intensity of New Zealanders. John Mitchell, the Sale coach, once of Waikato, described his young reserves' capitulation as "a totally gutless performance that is very hard to swallow", and promised a protracted and physically vicious training session this week.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Catt (2), Guscott (2), Méndez (2), Sleightholme, Webster, Lyle, Llanes, Adebayo, Perry Conversions: Catt (8), Callard (4) Sale: Try: Hewson. Conversion: Griffin
BATH: J Callard; J Sleightholme, M Perry, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, C Hamson; K Yates, F Méndez, J Mallett, N Thomas, M Haag, G Llanes, R Webster. D Lyle. Sleightholme replaced by M Horn (41min); Thomas replaced by E Peters (61); Yates replaced by D Hilton (71); Webster replaced by A Long (76).
SALE: A Griffin; M Moore, S Yates, D Wright, S Verbickas; N Ryan, J O'Reilly; A Yates, L Hewson, M Driver, N Ashurst, S Fletcher, R McCartney, A Morris, M Karaithana. Griffin replaced by J Abby (51); Karaithana replaced by P Sanderson (51); O'Reilly replaced by M Waugh (59). Driver replaced by J Batt (71). Morris replaced by M Dobson (71)
Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).

Coventry maintain upward mobility

Coventry..... 30
Bedford..... 10

By Nicolas Andrews

THE introduction of play-offs has done wonders for the clubs just below the top of the Courage Clubs Championship second division. Coventry and Bedford always faced the tallest of orders, attempting to hang on to the coat-tails of Richmond and Newcastle. Both, however, have a fighting chance of playing first-division rugby next season.

Already assured of fourth place, Bedford chose to rest several members of their first XV for their final league match. Rayer, Offiah, Turner, Paramore and Straculi were among those absent, as Bajak and Roussouw made debuts.

"They needed a rest," Geoff Cooke, the director of rugby at Bedford, said. "They have been battered all season. You have got to operate a squad system; there was no attempted subterfuge on our part."

Fresh players or not, Bedford face Bristol over two legs next week, having lost their last three matches. "I am disappointed that the season has rather tailed off," Cooke said. "I'd have liked to have sustained some momentum."

Coventry have done just that and, against an in-form London Irish, they will need it. "We have proved ourselves the third-best side in the second division," Derek Eves, the player-coach, said. "Not many people would have given us that at the start of the season. We are improving again. We'll be a first division side next year — no doubt about it."

Coventry have played impressively at home all season and, with the back row in commanding form, this result was never in doubt. "We should have won by 50 points," Eves said. In less slippery conditions, they might have done.

Harris opened up the defence to put Richardson over after five minutes. He converted that and kicked a penalty goal to pass Peter Rossborough's club points record for a season. A further penalty goal brought Harris his 300th point before Robinson nipped through a hole in the Bedford defence. Harris converted.

Fifteen minutes into the second half Platford went over from a forward drive for Bedford, but, with Pfluger missing every kick at goal, there was no way back. McAdam scored two more Coventry tries before Pfluger partially redeemed himself with the game's final score.

SCORERS: Coventry: Tries: Robinson (2); McAdam (2). Conversions: Harris (2) Penalty goals: Harris (2) Bedford: Tries: Platford, Pfluger
COVENTRY: M Gallagher; A McAdam, J Minshull, R Robinson, A Smallwood; J Harris, A Dawson; M Crane, D Addleton, R Hardwick, D Grewcock, A Blackmore, J Horrobin, D Eves, I Patton.
BEDFORD: M Cook; R O'Neill, M Oliver, S McCurrie, C Bajak; H Pfluger, R Stone; L Mansell, N McCarthy, J Probyn, M Loe, N Hadley, M Deans, M Popper, N Rousseau. Loe replaced by S Platford (41min); Stone replaced by A Melchett (62); McCarthy replaced by F Bibby (62). Deans replaced by R Winters (64)
Referee: A Rowdon (Berkshire).

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A man who gave England courage and conviction

Off the field as much as on it, Will Carling made an indelible mark as captain of the national team. Simon Barnes salutes his contribution

Newspapers say it's an individual thing. It is not. It's a collective thing. It's a team, a group, it's the pride of brothers. We must not leave people on the ground. Never leave a colleague down. Look after each other. Protect each other.

Words from one of Will Carling's pre-match speeches, delivered in something close to a whisper. *Finishing in a pin-drop* silence that lasts a minute.

Those words, delivered in private, and recorded by Frank Keating, a privileged observer, tell us what Carling is about. Carling the rugby player, I mean. Carling the rugby *captain*. Carling has fulfilled many roles in national and sporting life, but, in these words, ordinary enough in all conscience, we can hear a Harfleur conviction.

It was this sense of conviction that got him there, and that kept him there: 72 caps for England, an unprecedented 59 of them as captain. He resigned as captain *last year and had an* unexpected final fling, one of the boys at last, under the new captain, Phil de Glanville.

Now, with the sense of timing that has only occasionally deserted him, he announces his retirement from the international game. It is a significant passing. Carling was rugby union's first star. Others, such as Richards and Campese, have been cult figures. But Carling was known outside the clubbable and self-admiring circles of rugby union: he became rugby's Botham, rugby's Gazza.

> 'He was rugby union's first star'

Far better behaved of course, and, for that matter, far more consistent, if far less inspired than either as a player. But it is a rule of celebrity: nobody that famous avoids trouble.

The odd thing is that Carling has never been a poser, never *really an extrovert. There is still a* trace of shyness in him. It is a pleasant aspect of an altogether agreeable man.

Carling was swift to read the winds of fame. Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, made him captain at the age of 22. Carling was a smoothie subaltern at the time, and English rugby was *both a backwater and a national* disaster area. Cooke was to change all this through coherence, consistency and Carling.

Carling surfed the wave with *élan*. He saw the growing importance of sport in national life, the growing success of the England team, and placed himself at the crest of it all. It was, in the Eighties-speak of the time, a window of opportunity, and Carling leapt through it. Fame for Carling was, at least at the beginning, neither a gift nor a *curse but a commercial asset. He* founded a company called, initially, Inspirational Horizons, and he gave "motivational talks" to businessmen. Your chance to meet Will Carling; the company pays.

And no doubt he gave, and gives, value for money, for he is not a man likely to put himself in the wrong in so obvious a fashion. Carling, by delving into the business-community heartland of his sport on his own account, offended *the purists in rugby union who felt* he was defiling the sacred things of amateurism. Surely it is for administrators to wheedle money out of business, not players. There was a strong sub-current of opinion in rugby that it would be a good thing if England in general and Carling in particular were to fail.

Thus the gap between players and administrators, always wide in this sport, stretched to Grand Canyon width. *If an administrator* wanted to see what rugby was coming to, he had only to look at Carling, cheekily driving a Mercedes, and one he had earned by the sweat of his increasingly famous brow.

They would have got rid of them a long time ago if they could, many of them dinosaurs, but Carling had the loyalty of Cooke, and of the players, the pride of brothers. And his form on the field was wonder*fully consistent: he was never* arrogant or foolish enough to put himself in the wrong that way, either. Never a spectacular player, his best asset with the ball in his hands was his ability to break a tackle and unload to Underwood outside him. It was in the less noticeable area of defence that he truly excelled: as hard in the tackle as any back that ever played.

But fame is ever a two-edged sword, and Carling was caught, and memorably, twice over. Tripping each time, it must be said, over the Achilles' heel of his own vanity. Well, who could resist a *princess? The Princess-led* downgrading of the Royal Family and the Carling-led upgrading of rugby and sport in national life: it had to happen.

It was Carling's charm, his willingness to please, that caused him to drop the infamous remark in which, off the record, he described the Rug*by Football Union* committee as "old farts". As with the Princess business, he was undone by the media's sneakiness: the tape was still running and was broadcast.

> 'He was undone by the media'

Five years ago, it would have been the end for Carling. But as ever, Carling was uncannily lucky in his timing. As players rallied beside him and sport's opinion-formers spoke out for him, it turned out to be the beginning of the end of the old farts.

Rugby union still struggles over the transition to professionalism, but at least it is now a battle fought *without hypocrisy. And the* breakthrough was made, if inadvertently, by Carling. He was England's first modern rugby player; now, as the sport moves uneasily into the post-modern era, he has stepped down. It had to come. Already, with the passing of Cooke, the coherence and the loyalty within the England *team had gone.* Carling's rather touching attempts to reinvent himself this season as a stand-off give away his own restlessness, his own sense that an era of his life, perhaps the defining one, has ended. He is a decent man as well as a fine player and captain: one wishes him luck.

Not that he will need it. He has always had the nous to make his own, you see.

Carling gets his timing right

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING, who, during the past decade, has become the most visible face that English rugby has known, confirmed yesterday that he would play no more internationals. Thus, a player who made 72 appearances for his country and led them on a world-record 59 occasions, leaves the stage on which he has helped to transform a national sport.

The decision, though widely expected, comes earlier than Carling himself suggested when, last month, during preparations for what turned out to be his last cap, against Wales in Cardiff, he said that he would give himself the summer in which to reflect. However, if it is in his own interests that he has decided now, it is also in those of the England management, who can plan the redevelopment of their midfield on tour in Argentina next month.

It is not given to all leading sportsmen to choose the moment for their departure; most of those involved in team sports have the decision thrust upon them by selectors, coaches or managers. Carling, 31, though, has always possessed a shrewd notion of his own worth, both in playing as well as business terms, and he can perceive as well as anyone the queue forming behind him.

There also comes a time when there is no more to achieve in one's chosen sport. "Maybe some players postpone the decision to stop because they are too frightened to let go of the routine and, to an extent, the status that goes with being a high-profile player," Carling wrote in the *Mail on Sunday*, to whom he has contributed a regular column for several years, yesterday.

"I believe it is far better to let go than have it ripped from you . . . You know inside when it is time to go. You just lose *that edge, the drive that forced* you ahead of the others."

The goal this season for Carling has been to prove his worth in playing terms, by retaining his England place having relinquished the captaincy at the end of the 1996 five nations' championship.

The next World Cup is still two years away and Carling acknowledges that there are other imperatives now: his developing business interests, created on the back of his rugby fame, and his domestic circumstances (he and Ali



Carling: other imperatives

Cockayne, his girlfriend, are expecting their first child). He will, however, continue to play for Harlequins.

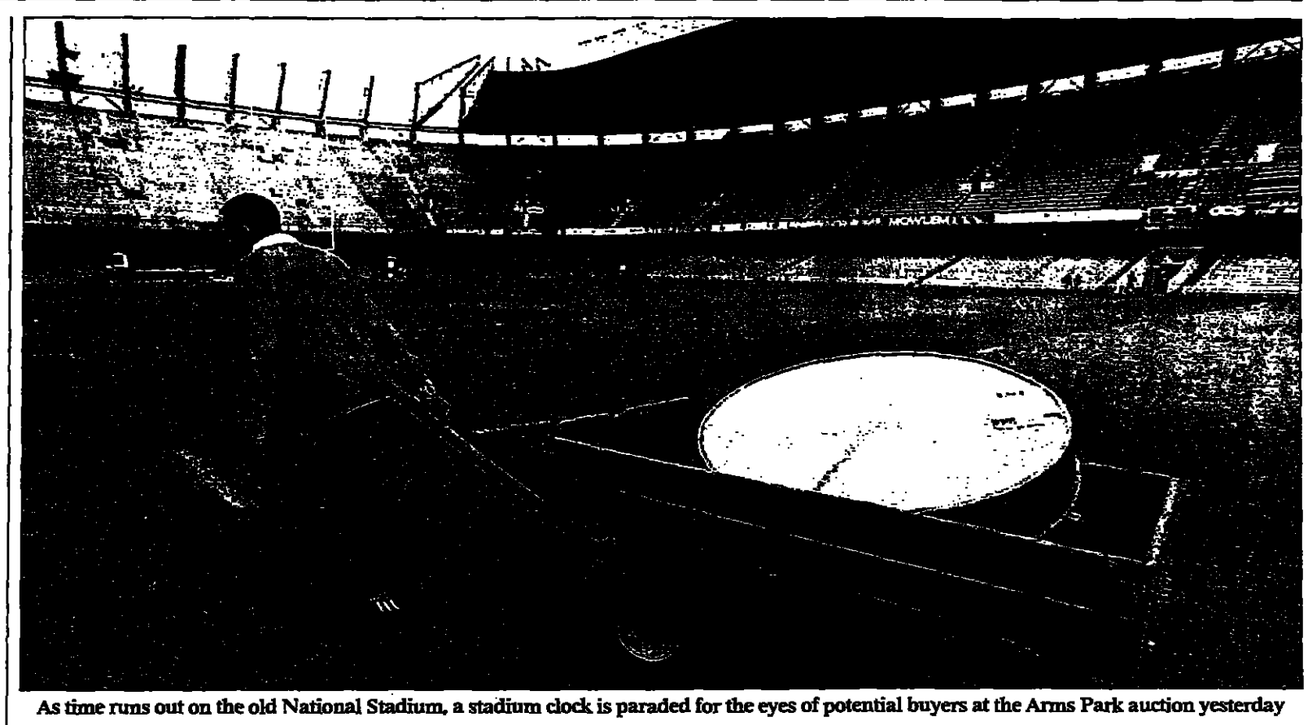
No player retains his best form over ten seasons, but Carling, first capped against France in 1988, has done better than most. During that time, England's playing fortunes have soared to three grand slams, two triple crowns and a World Cup final in 1991. If there was a blip in Carling's career, it came in 1993, when England's championship return was modest and his own stock declined during the British Isles tour to New Zealand, when he lost his place to Scott Gibbs, of Wales.

"I'm still a bit surprised in one sense, because he still has *something to offer England,"* Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, said yesterday. Carling hinted to Cooke, the man who appointed him England captain at the age of 22, a fortnight ago that he had made up his mind, and Cooke understands the desire to retire on his own terms.

"If the hunger is not there, you don't want to linger," Cooke said, "but what always stood out for me was Will's sheer mental toughness, his determination to be the best. He was a winner. Right from the early days, he had the touch of steel which is so important in the top-class game. Other players during his time brought different qualities to the role of captain, but Will's record demands that he be up there among the best in the world."

Carling's decision will come as a relief to Jack Rowell, Cooke's successor as England manager and now the team coach. The decision to pair him with Phil de Glanville, the captain this season, was made to ensure a strong central focus for a refurbished team, but it brought two similar players together and limited the opportunities for the gifted Jeremy Guscott and the potential of Will Greenwood, two centres who will tour with the Lions this summer.

Now Rowell cannot be stigmatised as the man who dropped a national institution and can concentrate in Argentina on developing the next strata of England midfield players — Nick Greenstock, Matt Allen, Jos Baxendell — alongside de Glanville. At the same time, he knows that he has Guscott and Greenwood available when it comes to selection for the demanding string of November internationals against South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.



As time runs out on the old National Stadium, a stadium clock is paraded for the eyes of potential buyers at the Arms Park auction yesterday

Sporting era ends with bric-a-brac sale

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

ANYONE arriving at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday with an eye for a nostalgic bargain would have been severely disappointed by the fixtures and fittings of a century. Not even the most ardent Welsh romantic could get dewy-eyed about a Zanussi chip fryer or a Numatic vacuum cleaner, however many great days of passion they had seen down the years.

For all the cheery auctioneering cries of "this is history, this is history", the bowels of a modern stadium are not, on the whole, the stuff of legend. The old wooden locker that belonged to Barry John and bore the fistprint of some irate forward from long ago disappeared in the last redevelopment, to be replaced by a more functional changing-room of aluminium pegs and formica benches. The smell of liniament just about survived from the Swalec Cup final the previous day, but plastic does not absorb smells as readily as oak. The old metal teapot (without lid) looked as if, like Welsh rugby, it had seen better days, but sadly it was not for sale — unlike Welsh rugby, some might say.

A desultory crowd of about 200, well below what the Welsh Rugby Union and Henry Butcher, the auctioneers, had hoped, toyed rather self-consciously with a list of imitation pot plants, crockery, carpets and chairs. The atmosphere was more Sunday car boot sale than Sotheby's, though the family silver was being pawned to pay for the extravagance of the next generation.

The first lot, a mahogany-finish four-section cloaks unit, fetched £25, a pair of part-glazed doors a tenner and a quantity of glasses ("Gareth Edwards might have drunk from these, ladies and gentleman") a whopping £45, hardly a massive indent on the £60 million that the WRU owes to Barclays Bank as its part of the £108 million development of the new stadium.

The main bidders in the opening session were a couple of rag-and-bone men from down Neath way, who had a canny eye for a good deal and cared not much for the "historic and unique" occasion advertised by Peter Cauldwell, the chief auctioneer. Nevertheless, items went briskly, some to souvenir hunters out for a day, others to more serious collectors, the majority to the second-hand junk trade.

For one man, the dismantling of a lifetime had a bitter poignancy. Tony Horne, the head groundsman at the Arms Park for the past 12 years, has invested more time than anyone in the 5,000 square metres of turf that provided the stage for so many of rugby's greatest names, and to watch it being parcelled off in bits, at least half bought by an Italian restaurateur for a mere song, tested his emotions to bursting.

"It's very sad," he said. "Every day, I'd walk through those gates and feel the hairs on my neck stand up. I have 12 years of memories from here and I'll take them with me to my grave." His own highlight was the centenary celebration game in 1985-86 season, which brought the greatest international players together to play on his turf. "Everywhere you turned, there was another immortal," Horne recalled. "It was brilliant."

From midnight last night, the National Stadium turned from a rugby citadel to a construction site — a designated hard hat area either way. At least there was a memorable curtain call for the Arms Park, a game of real passion between those old rivals, Cardiff and Swansea, graced by a try by Nigel Walker worthy of comparison with any. Bouncing off one tackle, turning inside another, sprinting for the line over the desperate outstretched arm of the Swansea full back, Walker, the Cardiff wing, etched one final memory on to the honours board. The try, as all great tries should, turned the match on its head, deflating Swansea and lifting Cardiff.

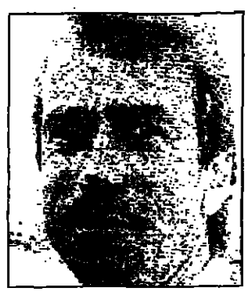
In January 1999 the new stadium will be ready, on the same site but rotated through 90 degrees and with a retractable roof. Mercifully, memories are portable, immune to the thud of the auctioneer's hammer. They will re-emerge to fill the new Arms Park (not the Millennium Stadium, please) along with the chip pan friers and imitation potted plants. Maybe the pock-marked old teapot will make *the sentimental journey, too.* You know, the one that Barry John once drank from.



CRICKET

Jones transforms Derbyshire with positive thinking

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

COUNTY cricket is a demanding business. From April to September it consumes lives and minds. The players will see far more of each other than of their families and will come to know intimately the hopes and habits, secrets and lies, of their colleagues.

In such an environment, camaraderie is an essential. A club in which the component parts continually grate upon each other will advertise this disunity on the field. Unless they are a supremely gifted bunch, they will then inevitably underachieve when compared to a county whose players embrace that thing called team spirit.

It is a capricious virtue, one that comes more easily to the teams who win as a matter of routine. Adversity, though, is sometimes a powerful stimulus — just look at Sussex, dismissed as the natural wooden-spoonists this season and yet, with a rag-bag collection of diehards and discards, taking charge of their fixture against Northamptonshire before the weather had the final say at Hove on Saturday, as it did everywhere else.

There are teams who will go on winning without spirit, of course, though Raymond Illingworth is positive that the dominant Yorkshire sides of his early years would have done even better if the older players had ever bothered to speak to the youngsters. "Our team spirit was never good," he said, "but it might have been better if the senior players had at least stayed in the same hotel as the rest of us."

Champion teams have engendered spirit in individual ways. Middlesex, under Mike Brearley, had a diverse collection of players whose dressing-room relationships were abrasive but never exclusionist; Essex, under Keith Fletcher, hid their professionalism behind legendary pranks and social excesses: and then, last year, came Leicestershire and James Whitaker's triumph of bonding and self-belief among players more inclined to think themselves second-class.

Just behind Leicestershire came Derbyshire. It seemed hardly possible. They had won the title just once, 60 years previously; in addition, they had a downbeat image, a derided ground, had narrowly escaped bankruptcy only two years earlier and were notorious for dressing-room rancour. More players wanted to leave them than join.

Into this unpromising atmosphere came two Australians — the shrewd Les Stillman, as coach, and the charismatic Dean Jones, as captain. We English had perhaps tended to underestimate Jones, accepting the flair of his batting but ignorant of the depths of his character. He was seen, in shallow terms, as a strutting, arrogant Aussie, but there is far more to him than that.

Jones tackled the problems of the Derby dressing-room square-on. He made it an excuse-free zone, insisting upon honest self-analysis rather than whingeing, and set the tone himself. He banned the players from using mobile phones and from sleeping during play — everyone had to watch the cricket and make plenty of supportive noise.

He also dropped the custom of fines for missed catches or turning up late and instituted encouragement awards — a whip-round of £2 a head every time someone made a century or took five wickets, the pool providing an end-of-season party. All this was designed to stress the positive rather than the negative and the response of his players is obvious.

Arguably, nobody benefitted more than Chris Adams, who had his most prolific season and identified closely with Jones's methods. Yet, when the season ended, and the England selectors did not reward him with so much as an A-tour place, Adams intensified his efforts to leave the club, going so far as to threaten a case in the European Courts of Justice when they declined to release him.

Adams has stayed on sufferance, seething with frustration because he believes that his ambitions would be better served elsewhere. Jones, with whom he has no personal grievance, returned this spring knowing that he had to remotivate a prime assets. It has not taken him long.

Helped, perhaps, by inclusion in The Rest team for the putative Test trial last weekend, Adams has quickly demonstrated that he will not be sulking or malingering. On Saturday he made a century at Canterbury against one of the strongest attacks in the championship. His partner, voluble and inspiring, in a stand of 202, was Jones.

With 89 needed and seven wickets intact, rain robbed Derbyshire of a remarkable victory. Jones was unbeaten on 99. The captain will regret the first loss, give little thought to the second and take immense and justified consolation from a far greater victory. He has recaptured the focus of Chris Adams. He has banished a serious threat to team spirit. Derbyshire's championship odds should be cut accordingly.



Moores, watching his side bat against Northamptonshire, is tackling a difficult assignment with enthusiasm. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Moores offering tenacity and hope

Simon Wilde meets the new captain of Sussex, a team for which pundits predict a season of struggle after a winter of upheaval

When Sussex dismissed Alan Wells as captain last winter and catapulted themselves into the most turbulent six months of their history, the name of his successor, Peter Moores, raised barely a flicker of interest. There were, after all, more interesting things going on.

The choice of Moores was widely perceived as Hobson's choice. He was the resident vice-captain and senior capped player, but, with so many members of the staff on their way to pastures new, there was scarcely a surfeit of alternatives. Moores, it was thought, had been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

That is not how Moores himself sees it. "It did not shock me getting the captaincy, though what went on around the captaincy did," he said. "I have always enjoyed captaining the side in my own mind. It was clear we needed to change. After all, we had not won a trophy for ten years."

Nor did Moore's appointment surprise Tony Pigott, who roused the members to "rise up" against the old committee and is now chief executive. He is a close friend, having roomed with Moores for seven years when they were team-mates and is godfather to his three-year-old daughter, Natalie.

"Peter is a very good pro," he said. "He is always positive and thinks deeply about the game. When we were playing together, he would help me with my bowling, whether I was doing badly or well."

Moores, 34, is embarking on his fifteenth and most important season of county cricket. It has not been a smooth journey. The first two were spent with Worcestershire, where Steve Rhodes was then brought in ahead of him, and when he moved to Hove he had three years deputising for Ian Gould.

He eventually established himself as a competent wicketkeeper-batsman whose career average dwells in the lower twenties, but has had his critics. During the winter, Robin Marlar, now Sussex's chairman, claimed Moores was not as good behind the stumps as Martin Speight, who left to fulfil his wicketkeeping ambitions at Durham.

But Moores is nothing if not tenacious. Last July he was left out for one Axa Equity & Law League game, so that Speight could be given a chance with the gauntlets. His response was to score a defiant, unbeaten championship century against Surrey six days later. He was not dropped again.

"Peter is different off the pitch than on it," Pigott said. "He is popular with the members, who probably think he is just a nice, unassuming man. But on the pitch he shows terrific enthusiasm. He would run through a brick wall for you. Only those who have played with him would know that."

Promotion has given Moores greater confidence and he exudes an impressive self-assurance when he talks about his ambitions for a team that is so ravaged that it is not supposed to have any.

"What I am emphasising to the players is the need for a different mental approach," he said. "We need to control ourselves to play well under pressure, which can be hard in county cricket, which is something of a marathon. We must try to get away from the fear of failure. We are here to play and to enjoy ourselves."

Judging by the spirited performance they gave in the opening championship game against Northamptonshire, the Sussex players are doing just that. "What I am endeavouring to do is be honest and fair," Moores added. "If you talk straight with the players, they will know you are doing your best for the club. I will be looking to the likes of Bill Athey and Neil Taylor for advice but want to encourage the players to think about the wider game and, to an extent, captain themselves.

"We have always been labelled under-achievers. If we can now over-achieve, perhaps we will create the environment in which those coming into the side catch the mood and do the same"

Harassed Lamb taken to a media slaughter

TIM LAMB has been a busy man this week (Alan Lee writes). Harassed, in fact. Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has had to waste more time than he would choose watering down the inflated reaction to one more speculative suggestion about the future structure of the county championship.

When, in one of many interviews that he has given on the subject, Lord MacLaurin, of Knebworth, the new chairman of the board, mooted that a system of two randomly chosen leagues, with play-offs, might be viable, people who should know better took this as gospel.

Radio stations ran phone-ins on the basis that this was the future face of English cricket. Ceefax, whose response to newspaper stories varies from hysterical to invisible, joined in the drum-beating; and Lamb was seldom off his mobile phone, explaining to media outlets that nothing had been decided.

The newspapers were at it again yesterday — more tracts of proposals from the game's luminaries, apparent solutions to whatever ails the game.

Much of the speculation is either flimsy or misguided. MacLaurin's suggestion, taken at face value, would actually have the counties playing more, rather than less. More damagingly, it is portraying English cricket in an absurdly diseased light. Of course, the county structure requires change, but the game is not in crisis, as we are being led to believe by such fuss.

Lamb acknowledges this concern. "We have consulted widely on the issue and there is a general consensus that we need to do something, but no consensus at all on how to do it," he said. "The chairman was simply outlining one or two possibilities and the reaction is entirely out of proportion."

The most pertinent words of the chief executive came from the heart. "The time has come when the talking must stop," he said, "and the action must start."

Lloyd catches eye with rapid-fire success

BY DEREK HODGSON

MY FIRST sight of Graham Lloyd was on a bleak and gloomy third afternoon at Headingley, when Yorkshire felt that they had saved a Roses match. Lancashire had lost early wickets in chasing something like 140 off 20 overs and, when young Lloyd appeared at No 6 or 7, they were needing ten an over.

"Young Bumble", as he was known, in reference to his father, David, now the England coach, had been spoken of as a comer since his Accrington boyhood. Graham first appeared in that club's under-13 team when nine years old and made his Lancashire League debut at 14, batting against Test professionals. We were probably expecting a right-handed version of David.

The next half-hour was an eye-opener as Graham, little known to Yorkshire, flayed their bowling with astonishing verve, nerve and power. He still smiles at the memory. "Aye, I enjoyed that: I middled it right away and we very nearly got there," he said.

Now 27, he has become to look more like his father on and off the field, the youthful chubbiness pared away. He is a sharply focused player, extremely aware of his strength and weaknesses. The strengths in this past year have been formidable.

He hit 241 against Essex last year, the first hundred coming off 70 balls. He took 76 balls to reach a hundred against Yorkshire a fortnight ago, 151 to complete a score of 225. In the opening Britannic Assurance county championship match, against Durham last Wednesday, he needed 80 balls for 102.

Lloyd does more than score quickly; he gets very big scores quickly. Such turbo-charged batting attracted his father and the England selectors last season and the younger Lloyd appeared in two Texaco Cup matches, against Pakistan. He scored two not out and 15, and said: "I found it difficult at that level, especially against their right-hand spinner, Saqlain.

"I know my technique is not as good as the majority. My advantage is that I do get to middle the ball early and can then hit quickly. I'm always anxious to keep the score moving. I have had a couple of quiet years, but last summer I felt I was running into my best form so far.

"I was especially pleased with my 81 in the NatWest semi-final. We had lost a few wickets and I had to take care and concentrate and was fortunate enough to put on a few with John Crawley that helped us to win."

Today Lancashire begin the defence of the Benson and Hedges Cup against Yorkshire. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, David Lloyd and the other selectors will be checking the candidates for the Texaco Cup squad to face Australia this summer.

Last year, when Graham Lloyd was chosen, he learnt of his selection from the television screen. Could his father not have given him a call? "Never," Graham said. "He would never praise me in public, either. If anything, he would go the other way. I prefer it, too.

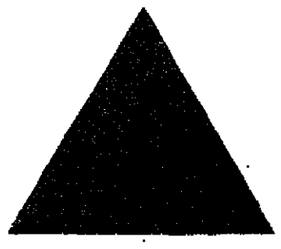
"Obviously he's been a big influence, but most of the lads here have fathers who've played league or cup cricket. Mine happened to be at Lancashire for 17 years, so the situation's always been a little difficult, if not delicate, with my father bending over backwards not to be accused of nepotism."

Graveney and the England coach must be keen to see how the young Lloyd, now overflowing with confidence, might handle the Australia attack. David Lloyd was the England opener who took on the full fury of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, after Geoffrey Boycott had temporarily retired, in Australia in 1974-75. "They knocked seven bells out of me," David will admit, ruefully. Could the son, 22 years later, ring those seven bells for England?



Lloyd: sharply focused

pi.



And a beer to go with it.



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SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Essex (8pts) drew with Hampshire (7)

ESSEX: First Innings 246 (P J Prichard 65; C A Connor 7 for 46). Second Innings 442 for 8 dec (R C Irani 123 not out, S G Law 78, Prichard 56)

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 161 (A P Cowan 5 for 49)

Second Innings

J S Laney b Ilott	4
M L Hayden not out	35
*J P Stephenson lbw b Irani	32
M Keech not out	0
Extras (lb 1, nb 4)	5
Total (2 wkts)	64

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-60

BOWLING: Ilott 8-3-13-1, Cowan 7-0-27-0; D R Law 4-1-13-0; Irani 3-1-10-1.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder.

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Kent (8pts) drew with Derbyshire (8)

KENT: First Innings 251 (M A Ealham 72 not out, S A Marsh 57; D E Malcolm 6 for 74). Second Innings 333 (T R Ward 96, P A Strang 69, M J McCague 53 not out; P A J DeFreitas 7 for 64)

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 246 (K M Krikken 61; McCague 5 for 78, D W Headley 4 for 81)

Second Innings

K J Barnett c Llong b Headley	6
A S Rollins c Ealham b Headley	0
C J Adams c Llong b McCague	108
*D M Jones not out	99
V P Clarke not out	18
Extras (b 4, lb 9, nb 4)	17
Total (3 wkts)	248

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-14, 3-216

BOWLING: Headley 8-1-25-2, McCague 18-2-91-1; Ealham 14-1-45-0; Strang 11-0-50-0; Fleming 4-0-11-0; Patel 3-0-12-0

Umpires: K E Palmer and P Willey

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (final day of four): Sussex (11pts) drew with Northamptonshire (9)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 315 (R R Montgomerie 68, D J Capel 57, J N Snape 56; M A Robinson 6 for 78).

Second Innings:

R R Montgomerie not out	18
M B Loye not out	19
Extras (lb 4)	4
Total (no wkt)	41

BOWLING: Drakes 5-0-21-0, Jarvis 4-0-16-0.

SUSSEX: First Innings 411 for 7 dec (N R Taylor 127, K Newell 107 not out, P W Jarvis 64, C W J Athey 50)

Umpires: A Clarkson and A G T Whitehead.

No play

CARDIFF (final day of four): Warwickshire 151 (S D Thomas 4-62) and 77-3; *Glamorgan 551-3 dec (H Morris 233, A Dale 106, S P James 83). Match drawn: Glamorgan 11pts, Warwickshire 3*

OLD TRAFFORD (final day of four): Lancashire 506 (G D Lloyd 102, P J Martin 78 not out, J E R Gallian 78, G Chapple 66, M Watkinson 5-1); Durham 201-6 (D C Boon 85 not out). Match drawn: Lancashire 9pts, Durham 8.

LEICESTER (final day of four): Gloucestershire 245 (S Young 59, R C Russell 57, A D Mullally 5-52) and 8-0; Leicestershire 307 (D L Maddy 80, P A Nixon 77 not out). Match drawn: Leicestershire 10pts, Gloucestershire 8.

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of four): Worcestershire 417 (T S Curtis 113, T M Moody 70, W P C Weston 52, M N Bowen 5-99); Nottinghamshire 196-3 (P R Pollard 81, R T Robinson 80). Match drawn: Nottinghamshire 8pts, Worcestershire 8.

THE OVAL (final day of four): Somerset 483 (R J Harden 136 not out, P D Bowler 63, S Hercberg 55, M N Lathwell 50); Surrey 209-8. *Match drawn: Surrey 7pts, Somerset 10*

UNIVERSITY MATCH: The Parks (one day): British Universities v Yorkshire — match abandoned without a ball being bowled

Second Test match

Sri Lanka v Pakistan

COLOMBO (second day of five, Sri Lanka won toss): Pakistan, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 185 runs behind Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Mushtaq Ahmed b Saqlain	72
R P Arnold run out	37
M S Atapattu c Salim Elahi b Mushtaq Ahmed	14
P A de Silva not out	138
*A Ranatunga c Salim Elahi b Saqlain	4
H P Tillekeratne b Mohammad	10
†R S Kaluwitharana b Acil	22
R S Kalpage c Salim Elahi b Saqlain	5
W P U J C Vaas c Salim Elahi b Saqlain	17
S C de Silva st Moin b Mushtaq Ahmed	0
K J Silva run out	0
Extras (b 6, lb 3, nb 3)	12
Total	331

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-96, 2-124, 3-124, 4-129, 5-144, 6-204, 7-224, 8-300, 9-321

BOWLING: Mohammad Zahid 12-1-44-1, Shahid Nazir 8-1-50-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 32-6-90-2, Saqlain Mushtaq 45-12-116-4, Asif Mujtaba 15-3-23-1

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Salim Elahi c Tillekeratne b Vaas	0
*Rameez Raja c Arnold b S C de Silva	36
Faisal Ahmed c Arnold b Vaas	4
Salim Malik c Ranatunga b S C de Silva	24
Inzamam-ul Haq not out	43
Asif Mujtaba not out	31
Extras (lb 3, nb 5)	8
Total (4 wkts)	146

†Moin Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Zahid and Shahid Nazir to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-13, 3-59, 4-83

BOWLING: Vaas 12.3-3-48-2, S C de Silva 12.5-3-42-2; Silva 9-2-24-0, Kalpage 16-6-19-0; Ranatunga 4 1-1-8-0, Arnold 5-3-2-0

Umpires: P Manuel (Sri Lanka) and I T Robinson (Zimbabwe)

First one-day international match

West Indies v India

PORT OF SPAIN (India won toss): West Indies beat India by eight wickets on revised target

INDIA

*S R Tendulkar c Browne b Ambrose	44
N S Sidhu lbw b Ambrose	5
R S Dravid c Hooper b Rose	17
M Azharuddin b Rose	3
A D Jadeja c Browne b Rose	19
†N R Mongia b Ambrose	29
R Singh c Williams b Bishop	2
A R Kumble c Hooper b Adams	14
S B Joshi b Ambrose	8
A P Kuruvilla not out	3
B K V Prasad run out	5
Extras (lb 5, w 20, nb 5)	30
Total (48.3 overs)	179

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-65, 3-71, 4-86, 5-119, 6-123, 7-154, 8-171, 9-172

BOWLING: Ambrose 9.3-0-36-4, Bishop 7-0-38-1, Walsh 8-0-34-0, Rose 10-2-25-3, Hooper 10-1-33-0, Adams 4-1-8-1

WEST INDIES

S C Williams c Prasad b Kumble	14
S Chanderpaul c Kuruvilla b Prasad	83
B C Lara not out	25
C L Hooper not out	9
Extras (b 8, lb 1, w 8, nb 1)	18
Total (2 wkts, 27.5 overs)	149

J C Adams, R I C Holder, †C O Browne, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose, F A Rose and *C A Walsh did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-132

BOWLING: Prasad 7-1-35-1; Kuruvilla 4.5-0-27-0; Kumble 4-0-23-1, Singh 5-0-25-0 Joshi 4-0-18-0, Tendulkar 3-0-11-0.

Man of the match: S Chanderpaul

Umpires: C Cumbarbatch and E Nicholls

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CHANGING TIMES

CRICKET

Languorous Leicester completely outplayed

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by 111 runs

ON A sweltering day at Cheltenham last July, Gloucestershire amassed their highest ever Sunday score, but were still beaten by Leicestershire with three overs to spare. They made 48 runs fewer in the corresponding fixture yesterday, but it was more than sufficient to achieve what must be thought one of the upsets of the opening round.

Leicestershire, requiring 237 on a blameless surface and in bright sunshine, declined feebly to 125 for nine. For the home crowd, at least, it was as well their team had not batted first, or such entertainment as there was would have been embarrassingly short-lived.

It would be an understatement to say Gloucestershire seldom shine at Sunday cricket. One of only three counties yet to win the league, they habitually camp in the lower reaches of the table. Here, however, they overwhelmed a team apparently far better equipped.

Leicestershire played as teams tend to do in August if their interest in the prize-money has gone. They were languorous and undisciplined. As this is still April and Grace Road is still buzzing with championship memories, it was a puzzling performance, one sure to have dressing-room repercussions.

It is not enough for them to claim they are missing their overseas player. Phil Simmons was highly influential last year but the club has been pursuing an unknown South African all-rounder named Neil Johnson with almost unhealthy vigour. He would have made little difference here — and, anyway, Gloucestershire are getting by without both Courtney Walsh and Andrew Symonds.

Leicestershire's recent record in all one-day cricket is shocking and it will be concerning everyone at this ambitious club. They began well enough yesterday. James Whitaker won the toss, his players burst from the pavilion in their new parrot-coloured strip and Gloucestershire, perhaps dazzled, subsided to an unpromising 14o for five after 30 overs.

Monte Lynch, in his stand-and-deliver style, had gone in first and struck an uncomplicated 42 but his bizarre dismissal, miscuing a high full-toss as Dakin's slower ball malfunctioned, began an ominous slide. Young and Russell were out to strokes they would rather forget during a single over of left-arm spin from Brimson, who then had Cunliffe neatly stumped.

The catalyst of change was Mark Alleyne. He had made an unavailing century in the Cheltenham fixture last year and now bestrode the closing overs while Wright and then Hancock blazed away with him. Hancock's 3o came from only 18 balls and included 21 in an over from Gordon Parsons, who for once looked his age.

Vince Wells chipped the first ball of the reply to extra-cover, where Alleyne dived to catch him, and Leicestershire never recovered. They lost Whitaker, pulling frustratedly, and Maddy, crazily run out, in the sixth over and Nixon in the eighth. Few teams, even those with Leicestershire's self-confidence, come back from 19 for four.

Young, bowling with rhythm and life, took out the dangerous Habib and Dakin and the game died a meandering death, complete with jeering acclaim for Leicestershire's face-saving passing of 100.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Barnett, beaten by a direct hit from Llong, was one of four Derbyshire batsmen to be run out at Canterbury

Walker weighs in to Derby attack

BY PAT GIBSON

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (4pts) bt Derbyshire by six wickets

IT WAS hard to believe that Matthew Walker, the former Young England captain, had scored only one previous Sunday League 50 — and that all of three years ago — as he sped Kent towards victory in the evening sunshine yesterday. His innings of 80, made from only 74 balls, enabled them to coast home with some 8½ overs to spare.

Sunday cricket seems to be made for Walker who, without wishing to be too unkind, could double as Mr Roly Poly during the tea interval to keep the kids happy.

He stands only 5ft 6in but his fighting weight is 13st and he was carrying considerably more than that when he weighed in for the new season.

Not that his bulk has ever affected his sporting prowess. He has captained England at hockey at schoolboy level, played rugby for Kent, had football trials with Gillingham and Chelsea and in the championship last season he made 275 not out against Somerset, the highest score ever made by a Kent player at Canterbury.

Surprising, then, that he did not make more than 27 in 16 Sunday innings last year and especially so in view of the way he played yesterday after Derbyshire's self-destructing batsmen had left Kent a modest target of 185.

As ever, Fleming set the pace with a fusilade of shots, making 40 out of 67 off 42 balls with six fours, but then the left-handed Walker got into his stride, driving the ball handsomely on both sides of the wicket and cutting fiercely when Clarke, the leg spinner, pitched short. He struck ten fours in all before slashing Harris to deep backward point.

Ward had gone third ball, caught and bowled by Clarke, but Wells joined Walker in a third-wicket stand of 97 in only 15 overs which as good as settled the match.

Wells, whose only alarm came when he drove a ball from Harris against his instep from where it almost rebounded onto the stumps, finished unbeaten on 56, scored at a run a ball with eight fours.

It all seemed so straightforward compared with the frenetic Derbyshire innings which was sabotaged by four run-outs and would have been even worse than it was but for a first Sunday 50 by Gul Khan, the former Oxford University batsman, who had made a hundred against Kent at Canterbury last season.

Barnett, DeFreitas, playing as a batsman only because of his groin strain, Krikken and Roberts were all run-out with varying degrees of culpability leaving the keen-eyed Khan to salvage what he could.

He helped his captain, Jones, put on 60 for the fourth wicket and went on to reach 61 not out, including a six and five fours.

Lewis ensures Surrey enjoy the lion's share

Michael Henderson sees gimmicks fail to illuminate The Oval crowd

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss): Surrey (4pts) bt Somerset by three wickets

IN the car park a man on stilts, "Professor Crump", is trying to spread a little happiness. Close by is a face painter, drumming up some colourful business. The Surrey and Somerset players are on the field, running, stretching and throwing. "Roary", the club lion, wanders around the boundary edge. Three thousand people file in, indifferent to his charms.

Adam Hollioake wins the toss and decides to have a bowl. To the strains of Carmina Burana he leads his players down the pavilion steps. "Let's hear it for the Surrey Lions!" says Jonny Gould, the miked-up master of ceremonies. Nadeem Shahid dances a jig with Roary rather self-consciously, like somebody who has been told to let his hair down.

Somerset, says Jonny, have agreed to enter into "the spirit of things", and their opening batsmen walk out to the heavily amplified sound of a man drowning in a vat of boiling oil. This, it transpires, is their "theme song". Spectators pass round Thermos flasks and share sandwiches. "English mustard, or French?"

In the first over Michael Burns tries to turn a ball off his legs and supplies a catch. Over the PA somebody belches. It turns out to be a lion's roar. "Alec Stewart, catching a snick there," Jonny tells us. An over later Stewart holds another catch, there is another eructation, and Chris Lewis, the successful bowler, charges towards fine leg where Shahid comes to greet him. On meeting they slap palms, and laugh.

Graham Rose hits a four. "Four runs there, to Graham Rose," says Jonny. The sun comes out. "The sun has come out," says Jonny. The elder Hollioake spoils a chance to make a catch at mid-on by diving unnecessarily. "A great effort there by Adam Hollioake", says Jonny. "Cheer on the Surrey Lions!"

Somerset's innings never really gets going. Ian Salisbury takes a couple of wickets and the Hollioakes snaffle a few down the order. Somerset are bowled out for 180. "So Surrey must make 181 for victory" says Jonny, for the benefit of the less numerate. In the tea interval there is no sign of Roary. Perhaps he is snoozing.

Ally Brown and Mark Butcher open the batting for Surrey. "The sun is shining and all is well with the world," says Jonny. He congratulates Margaret on her birthday — or rather, he offers "big Surrey birthday greetings." Nobody stirs.

Brown hits three booming fours and is then out. No belch this time. A familiar figure replaces him, who is introduced as "a legend in his time, Mr Alec Stewart." Both Butcher and Stewart are said to be "Londoners in every sense" and, to prove it, the crowd is told they support London football teams. But they fall leg before to Rose, who bowls with zip, and Somerset suddenly realise the game is there to win.

Caddick comes on at the Pavilion End and is soon winging the ball past the bat. Hollioake nicks one to Turner and Thorpe, starved of width to cut, is "pressed" for room and plays on. Surrey are 69 for five and even reminders that the sun is shining fail to cheer up the Surrey members.

It needs an innings from Chris Lewis to see Surrey to their target, and he makes 68 not out from 64 balls to help them reach it from the last ball, a wide. Lewis bounds off, crossing himself, and enjoying the applause of some overheated spectators. "It doesn't get more exciting than this," Jonny says before the final ball.

As if to crown his own day, the sun comes out again.

Mighty Moody turns on the power

BY JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets

TOM MOODY, the Worcestershire captain and destroyer of many an attack in the Sunday League, overcame the problems set by a slow pitch by going through with his strokes no matter what. This resulted in a number of mistimed shots falling between fielders, but it also proved to be the main pillar in Worcestershire's victory, achieved with eight balls to spare.

Moody's 89 came from 97 balls and contained two vast sixes and seven fours. The crux of Worcestershire's effort, after Nottinghamshire had been restricted to 183 for eight, lay in a partnership of 102 in 18 overs between Moody and Graeme Hick. When Hick hit all round a ball from the excellent Tolley, who revelled in the challenge presented by playing against his old county, Notts were still in with a chance.

These two had been particularly severe on Bates, the Nottinghamshire off spinner, who went for 27 runs from his first three overs. Even when Hick was out, Moody, holder of the record number of Sunday runs scored in a season — 917 in 1991 — continued to hold sway. When he was finally caught at extra cover, only 37 runs were needed from nine overs. Spiring and Solanki saw Worcestershire safely home, despite some fine, tight bowling from Andy Pick.

Apart from Robinson's 30, full of nifty nudges, Pollard's impressive 34 and 41 from Archer, which would have been considerably fewer had a first slip been posted early in his stay, the Nottinghamshire inings was notable for the running out of Dowman. It is the first time that the use of the third umpire has been responsible for a decision in the Sunday league, promoting all sorts of observations as to whether such a system should be in use for this televised match, but in none of the seven others being played yesterday.

There is little doubt that Dowman would still have got home had the protective matting covering another pitch not sent the ball bobbling straight into the hands of Lampitt, after it had appeared to be going out of reach. A rum do all round, then. Thereafter, the innings went according to the Sunday formula.

Essex relying on traditional path

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Hampshire by three wickets

IT IS not at every ground that gimmickry will prevail on Sundays. When the Lions, the Bears and any other high-faluting sides come to Chelmsford, they will be referred to on the scorecard and over the tannoy system strictly by the proper names of the counties. There will be no music, jungle roars or floodlights, merely a game of cricket.

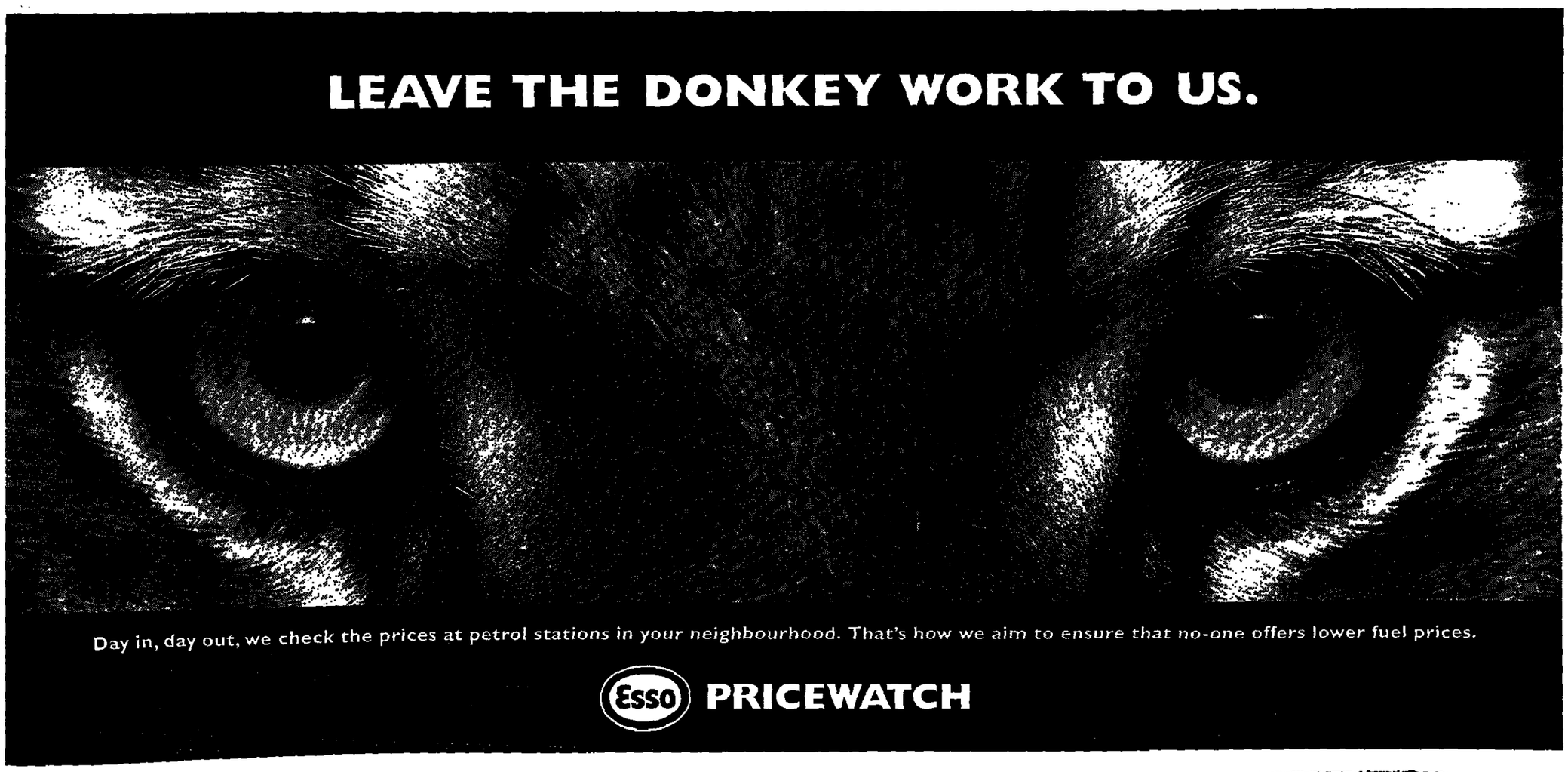
"The next thing that will be introduced will be bouncy castles and hurdles on the outfield," Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary/general manager, who also sits on the England and Wales Cricket Board's management committee, said. "We are trying to mend something that isn't broken. The fact that cricketers have been wearing white clothes for 150 years is a good thing in a fast changing world. Spectators don't need all these gimmicks."

Essex have agreed to play their Axa Life match at Hove in June under floodlights, but not with wholehearted enthusiasm. "I am amazed Sussex have been given planning permission," Edwards said. "We would never receive it here. And the notion of music in Sunday matches is horrendous."

By contrast, Chelmsford yesterday staged a relatively low key affair. Hampshire, who were put in on a pitch that gave the bowlers less help than in the championship meeting last week, struggled to 71 for three off their first 20 overs and reached a respectable total only through a partnership of 104 in 18 overs between Kendall and Keech, who are very much the future of Hampshire.

Keech struck one lovely straight six off Irani and, like Kendall, found the gaps without recourse to slogging. Aymes and Stephenson, whom not one spectator applauded in on his return to his former county, made useful runs.

Essex began in a similarly disjointed way. Stuart Law swung Renshaw into the river and was caught at the wicket in the same over, looking to steer him to third man. Hussain laboured over his 18 runs and only when Irani started to belt the ball around did Essex keep the required rate within sight. He, Grayson and Danny Law were all run out, but Robinson was given enough support to bring about victory in the final over.



Durham wilt at Lloyd's assault

BY DEREK HODGSON

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Durham by 57 runs

THE seemingly unstoppable Graham Lloyd might have become the first batsman to have scored 1,000 runs in April. Absurd? His aggregate in all matches is 478 and he was possibly denied by the weather of a second championship innings against Durham. He has two more Benson and Hedges matches before May Day.

Yesterday, he scored his second century against Durham in four days, and if these scores — plus the 225 and 17 made against a second-string Yorkshire attack — do not convince the critics, they do amount to a thunderous knocking on the door of the England selectors.

Lloyd reached 134 before failing to carry mid-off, unknowingly having equalled the Lancashire individual Sunday record, set by an unbeaten Clive Lloyd against Somerset in 1970. Lancashire had lost both openers for 23, the England captain contributing two crisp fours.

Lloyd, beginning four overs after John Crawley, overtook him with two fours punched through mid-wicket off Betts. Like all the outstanding batsmen, he sees the ball early and can hit it late. He drove Boiling, the off spinner, to despair with a series of controlled reverse sweeps, he drove or lifted the seam bowlers through the arc or smashed them to mid-wicket, and celebrated his fifty with a pull for six off Betts.

Crawley's 83, scored in 32 overs and containing five boundaries, was also a fine innings. The pair broke one Lancashire Sunday record, the 182 raised for the third wicket by Clive Lloyd and Harry Pilling on that same occasion 27 years ago.

David Boon, the Durham captain-manager, had said of Lloyd last Wednesday: "He is very hard to bowl at as he hits through the ball, but as a captain I would not like to see him bat like that all the time. He takes too many risks." Boon will probably be pleased not see him bat again this summer.

Somewhat shellshocked, Durham then lost their openers quickly, and it was once more up to Boon, bristling defiance, and Roseberry to keep a good crowd amused into the evening. It was their first view of the new Sunday uniforms. Durham now appear to be wearing blue overalls while Lancashire, in red shirts with white sleeves, could pass for Arsenal.

Boon, driving straight, punished Austin and Martin in turn and was starting to lace into Green, the promising all-rounder, when Green deceived him, the ball flying high for Hegg to take a catch running towards long leg.

If there was a silver lining to Durham's performance, it came in the batting of Roseberry, the captain last year, who showed confidence and power, playing like a man who has cleared a few cobwebs from his mind. His winter coaching, from Don Bennett, is starting to pay dividends.

Roseberry hit Green for a straight six and reached his 50 with another off Martin. He was treated to a few lollipops in the closing overs and finished just short of a century.

At no time did Durham approach the required rate of almost seven an over. Lancashire's control was never tested, the match becoming an exercise before the start of their Benson and Hedges programme against Yorkshire at Old Trafford today.

Incidentally, the prize-money for the Axa Life champions this summer is £42,000, roughly what some footballers earn as a weekly wage.



Adrian Shaw, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, can only watch as Trevor Penney, of Warwickshire, cuts the ball away yesterday. Photograph: Huw Evans

Glamorgan profit from madness in this method

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF (Warwickshire won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) bt Warwickshire on a superior scoring rate

GLAMORGAN, who were denied victory over Warwickshire by rain in their county championship encounter, took revenge in unsatisfactory circumstances in the opening Axa Life League game at Sophia Gardens yesterday.

Rain halted play with the game finely balanced on a lifeless pitch, but Glamorgan were declared winners after the new Duckworth-Lewis method, which will be used to calculate targets in all rain-affected domestic one-day matches this season, was brought into play. The English Cricket Board claims the new method is "fair, logical and straightforward", but it is doubtful whether any player or spectator without a degree in statistics would have known what target Glamorgan were chasing.

The method is so complex that the county scorers have been supplied with a computer programme to calculate it and each county has been asked to provide a match manager to resolve any conflict, because the umpires have washed their hands of the scheme.

Officially, Glamorgan's win should be recorded as "by 17 runs, using the Duckworth-Lewis method", because their target score after 20 overs, with three wickets down, was 64. Lengthy consultation between the scorers and umpires was required, however, to confirm Glamorgan's victory. Had the game run its natural course, Glamorgan would probably have won in any case, after miserly bowling from Watkin (four for 15) and Dale (two for 18), restricted Warwickshire to an inadequate 147 for seven.

Warwickshire packed their batting with strokemakers, but they might have been better served had they sent in the dependable Moles first instead of at No 5, by which time his side were 28 for three.

Moles and Brown revived the innings with a fourth-wicket stand of 47, but both fell in the same over from Dale and it was left to Piper and Welch to provide the acceleration to semi-respectability. Warwickshire managed only five fours and one six in their innings.

Glamorgan were given a solid start by Morris and Dale, but their innings faltered once Donald was brought into the attack. Morris was run out by Brown at point when he had second thoughts about a single, Cottey played on to the aggressive Donald and Maynard was bowled on the drive.

Whether by luck or judgment, Glamorgan managed to stay ahead of the required rate until the umpires led the players off in heavy rain at 6.10pm.

To add to Warwickshire's obvious batting problems, their new captain, Tim Munton, looks certain to have a second back operation in 26 months that will keep him out for two months.

Snape reminds Sussex of some harsh realities

BY SIMON WILDE

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Sussex by nine wickets

THEY knew it already, of course, but Sussex were reminded in the harshest terms yesterday that enthusiasm and a willingness to embrace new ideas — they are planning to be the first county to play an Axa Life League match under floodlights in June — are not the only things to cricket. Playing well and winning are important, too, and they did neither of those things against Northamptonshire yesterday.

It was not that they lost that will disturb their newly installed executives. What will concern them is the manner of this defeat. Northamptonshire's winning runs coming courtesy of successive shots to the boundary by Kevin Curran off Amer Khan, the leg spinner who Sussex signed from Middlesex, with almost a quarter of their innings unused.

What essentially went wrong was that the bottom fell out of the Sussex middle order. Drakes failed as an opener but Lenham struck a breezy 41 from 46 balls and, by the start of the 23rd over, Greenfield was established and Newell settled in. The score was 107 for two.

Sussex then embarked on an irrational quarter of an hour. They lost four wickets for two runs, all to Jeremy Snape in the space of 12 balls, to give him his best figures in the competition on his 24th birthday. Newell chipped to mid-wicket, Athey and Moores were both bowled pushing down the wrong line, and Pyemont chipped a simple return catch.

The lack of depth in the Sussex batting had been brutally exposed. Dare one say it, a Wells, Speight or Law would probably not have let such a collapse happen. Pyemont, whose feats at Tonbridge last year rivalled those of Colin Cowdrey, deserved his chance, but he was done no favours by the situation and did nothing for Sussex in return.

Greenfield oversaw the addition of some useful runs with the tail, but he was gone, the ninth wicket to fall, for 58, and the innings terminated long before the scheduled end. Even on a sluggish pitch on which the spinners were hard to get away, a total of 160 was going to be hard to defend.

Northamptonshire were potentially a batsman down as Warren relinquished wicketkeeping duties after taking an early blow on the right hand, but it never showed. Loye, having taken over the gloves, and Penberthy effortlessly put together a stand of 149 for the first wicket — Loye making an impressive 68, before being caught off Amer at mid-on, and Penberthy an unbeaten 74 — and that was more or less that.

Sussex came out to the sound of *One Vision*, by Queen, but their game was not that sharp.

SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

AXA Life League

Essex v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Hampshire by three wickets

HAMPSHIRE

M L Hayden lbw b Irani	27
J S Laney c Hussain b Irani	11
R A Smith b Such	3
M Keech b Grayson	52
W S Kendall b Irani	55
*J P Stephenson not out	16
†A N Aymes not out	21
Extras (lb 8, w 3, nb 2)	13
Total (5 wkts, 40 overs)	198

K D James, S D Udal, S J Renshaw and C A Connor did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-42, 3-56, 4-160, 5-160.

BOWLING: Cowan 6-0-24-0; Ilott 8-0-54-0; Such 8-0-17-1; Irani 8-1-36-3; Grayson 8-0-33-1; D R Law 2-0-26-0

ESSEX

*P J Prichard lbw b Stephenson	4
S G Law c Aymes b Renshaw	14
N Hussain c Hayden b Udal	18
R C Irani run out	48
A P Grayson run out	33
D R Law run out	26
D D J Robinson not out	12
M C Ilott c Stephenson b James	5
A P Cowan not out	5
Extras (lb 13, w 14, nb 2)	29
Total (7 wkts, 39.5 overs)	202

†B J Hyam and P M Such did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-22, 3-82, 4-120, 5-129, 6-162, 7-184

BOWLING: Stephenson 8-1-37-1; Renshaw 8-1-23-1; Connor 7.5-0-47-0; Udal 8-0-33-1; James 8-0-39-1

Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder

Glamorgan v Warwickshire

CARDIFF (Warwickshire won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Warwickshire by 17 runs (Duckworth and Lewis method)

WARWICKSHIRE

D P Ostler b Watkin	0
N M K Smith b Watkin	14
D R Brown b Dale	30
D L Hemp c Shaw b Watkin	3
*A J Moles c Parkin b Dale	19
T L Penney b Croft	8
†K J Piper not out	29
A F Giles c Maynard b Watkin	6
G Welch not out	22
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 7)	16
Total (7 wkts, 40 overs)	147

G C Small and A A Donald did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-22, 3-28, 4-75, 5-75, 6-89, 7-112

BOWLING: Parkin 8-1-25-0; Watkin 8-0-15-4; Thomas 4-0-27-0; Dale 8-2-18-2; Croft 8-0-26-1; Butcher 4-0-27-0

GLAMORGAN

A Dale not out	27
H Morris run out	26
P A Cottey b Donald	1
*M P Maynard b Smith	13
G P Butcher not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 4, nb 4)	13
Total (3 wkts, 20 overs)	81

A W Evans, †A D Shaw, R D B Croft, S D Thomas, S L Watkin and O T Parkin did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-46, 3-80. Par Score To Win: 64 Runs

BOWLING: Welch 3-0-17-0; Brown 3-1-10-0; Small 7-0-24-0; Donald 5-0-22-1; Smith 2-0-3-1.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and D R Shepherd.

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Derbyshire by six wickets

DERBYSHIRE

K J Barnett run out	16
C J Adams c Wells b Ealham	6
*D M Jones b McCague	31
P A J DeFreitas run out	2
G A Khan not out	71
V P Clarke c Ealham b Strang	15
†K M Krikken run out	4
G M Roberts run out	1
P Aldred c Wren b Strang	13
A J Harris not out	6
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 8, nb 2)	19
Total (8 wkts, 40 overs)	184

K J Dean did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-31, 3-39, 4-99, 5-127, 6-133, 7-135, 8-154

BOWLING: Wren 8-0-32-0; Ealham 6-0-18-1; Fleming 6-0-31-0; McCague 7-1-36-1; Strang 8-0-34-2; Llong 5-0-24-0.

KENT

M V Fleming c Adams b Dean	40
M J Walker c Clarke b Harris	80
T R Ward c and b Clarke	1
A P Wells not out	56
G R Cowdrey lbw b Harris	2
M A Ealham not out	0
Extras (lb 3, w 3)	6
Total (4 wkts, 31.3 overs)	185

P A Strang, *†S A Marsh, M J McCague, N J Llong and T N Wren did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-67, 2-75, 3-172, 4-184.

BOWLING: Dean 8-1-45-1; Aldred 4-0-27-0; Harris 7-1-42-2; Clarke 8-1-44-1; Roberts 4-3-0-24-0.

Umpires: K E Palmer and P Willey

Lancashire v Durham

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (4pts) beat Durham by 57 runs

LANCASHIRE

J E R Gallian c Collingwood b Killeen	1
*M A Atherton c Roseberry b Collingwood	12
J P Crawley b Betts	83
G D Lloyd c Boon b Walker	134
N H Fairbrother c Lewis b Boiling	1
I D Austin run out	12
†W K Hegg not out	12
G Yates not out	1
Extras (lb 10, w 2)	12
Total (6 wkts, 40 overs)	268

R J Green, G Chapple and P J Martin did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-23, 3-220, 4-225, 5-250, 6-266.

BOWLING: Killeen 8-1-40-1; Betts 7-0-45-1; Collingwood 5-0-29-1; Boiling 7-0-43-1; Foster 5-0-54-0; Walker 8-0-47-1

DURHAM

P D Collingwood c Hegg b Martin	0
†M P Speight c Lloyd b Austin	9
*D C Boon c Hegg b Green	27
M A Roseberry not out	91
N J Speak c Hegg b Chapple	19
M J Foster c Green b Yates	6
J J B Lewis not out	41
Extras (b 1, lb 11, w 4, nb 2)	18
Total (5 wkts, 40 overs)	211

M M Betts, J Boiling, N Killeen and A Walker did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-23, 3-56, 4-103, 5-125

BOWLING: Austin 8-0-34-1; Martin 7-0-45-1; Green 8-0-36-1; Chapple 8-1-38-1; Yates 8-0-38-1; Gallian 1-0-8-0.

Umpires: G I Burgess and R Palmer.

Leicestershire v Gloucestershire

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by 111 runs

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

N J Trainor c Whitaker b Ormond	22
M A Lynch c Nixon b Dakin	42
R J Cunliffe st Nixon b Brimson	36
S Young b Brimson	8
†R C Russell b Brimson	1
*M W Alleyne not out	45
A J Wright c Whitaker b Wells	18
T H C Hancock b Mullally	36
M C J Ball run out	0
A M Smith not out	3
Extras (lb 8, w 11, nb 6)	25
Total (8 wkts, 40 overs)	236

J J Lewis did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-81, 3-117, 4-119, 5-139, 6-172, 7-220, 8-220

BOWLING: Mullally 8-0-37-1; Parsons 8-0-65-0; Ormond 4-0-24-1; Dakin 8-0-35-1; Brimson 8-0-37-3; Wells 8-0-30-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE

V J Wells c Alleyne b Lewis	0
D L Maddy run out	7
*J J Whitaker lbw b Smith	8
A Habib c Russell b Young	11
†P A Nixon c Lynch b Smith	1
G I Macmillan lbw b Lewis	15
J M Dakin c Russell b Young	0
J Ormond c Trainor b Hancock	14
G J Parsons not out	41
A D Mullally c sub b Ball	6
M T Brimson not out	12
Extras (lb 1, w 9)	10
Total (9 wkts, 40 overs)	125

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-17, 3-17, 4-19, 5-49, 6-49, 7-52, 8-87, 9-97.

BOWLING: Lewis 8-0-33-2; Smith 6-2-14-2; Young 6-0-10-2; Ball 8-0-30-1; Hancock 8-0-25-1; Trainor 4-0-12-0

Umpires: J D Bond and J H Hampshire.

Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

TRENT BRIDGE (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

M P Dowman run out	7
R T Robinson c Rhodes b Lampitt	30
G F Archer c Lampitt b Leatherdale	41
*P Johnson c Spring b Chapman	3
P R Pollard c Rhodes b Haynes	34
C M Tolley b Lampitt	20
R T Bates b Haynes	2
†W M Noon not out	3
K P Evans b Lampitt	4
M N Bowen not out	5
Extras (b 4, lb 9, w 13, nb 8)	34
Total (8 wkts, 40 overs)	183

R A Pick did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-67, 3-81, 4-116, 5-152, 6-170, 7-170, 8-176

BOWLING: Newport 8-1-20-0; Haynes 8-0-43-2; Chapman 8-0-36-1; Lampitt 8-0-29-3; Leatherdale 4-0-24-1; Hick 4-0-18-0.

WORCESTERSHIRE

*T M Moody c Tolley b Dowman	89
W P C Weston run out	3
G A Hick b Tolley	32
K R Spring not out	31
V S Solanki not out	21
Extras (lb 4, w 4)	8
Total (3 wkts, 38.4 overs)	184

D A Leatherdale, G R Haynes, †S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt, P J Newport and R J Chapman did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-110, 3-146.

BOWLING: Evans 7-0-31-0; Pick, 8-1-19-0, Bowen 4-0-25-0; Tolley 8-0-26-1; Bates 5-0-50-0; Dowman 6.4-0-29-1.

Umpires: N T Plews and T E Jesty.

Surrey v Somerset

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss): Surrey (4pts) beat Somerset by three wickets

SOMERSET

M Burns c Stewart b Bicknell	2
M N Lathwell c and b Tudor	22
S C Ecclestone c Stewart b Lewis	0
G D Rose c Butcher b Bicknell	23
R J Harden b B C Hollioake	53
*P D Bowler b Salisbury	22
M E Trescothick lbw b Salisbury	F
†R J Turner b A J Hollioake	10
K A Parsons lbw b A J Hollioake	2
J I D Kerr not out	17
A R Caddick c Tudor b Lewis	5
Extras (lb 9, w 6, nb 8)	23
Total (37.4 overs)	180

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-6, 3-47, 4-73, 5-134, 6-136, 7-148, 8-153, 9-166,

BOWLING: Bicknell 8-0-33-2; Lewis 6.4-0-27-2; Tudor 4-0-26-1; B C Hollioake 8-0-34-1; Salisbury 8-0-40-2; A J Hollioake 3-0-11-2

SURREY

M A Butcher lbw b Rose	19
A D Brown c Turner b Kerr	15
†A J Stewart lbw b Rose	6
G P Thorpe b Caddick	14
*A J Hollioake c Turner b Caddick	0
N Shahid b Parsons	26
C C Lewis not out	68
B C Hollioake c Trescothick b Burns	1
I D K Salisbury not out	9
Extras (lb 9, w 14)	23
Total (7 wkts, 39.5 overs)	181

M P Bicknell and A J Tudor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-43, 3-46, 4-48, 5-69, 6-120, 7-123.

BOWLING: Kerr 8-0-36-1; Rose 8-2-28-2; Caddick 8-1-25-2; Parsons 8-0-31-1; Burns 5.5-0-40-1; Trescothick 2-0-12-0.

Umpires: B Dudleston and J H Harris.

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Sussex by nine wickets

SUSSEX

K Greenfield c sub b Capel	58
V C Drakes c Warren b Taylor	0
N J Lenham c sub b Emburey	41
K Newell c Capel b Snape	11
C W J Athey b Snape	0
J P Pyemont c and b Snape	1
*†P Moores b Snape	0
P W Jarvis c Curran b Emburey	6
N C Phillips c Penberthy b Bailey	21
A A Khan not out	7
M A Robinson run out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 1, nb 4)	14
Total (35.2 overs)	160

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-85, 3-107, 4-107, 5-109, 6-109, 7-116, 8-146, 9-154

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 6-2-21-0; Taylor 8-1-25-1; Snape 8-2-31-4; Emburey 6.2-1-28-2, Bailey 4-0-18-1; Capel 3-0-28-1.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

M B Loye c Robinson b Khan	68
A L Penberthy not out	74
K M Curran not out	4
Extras (b 5, lb 4, w 3, nb 4)	16
Total (1 wkt, 30.3 overs)	162

†C Walton, *R J Bailey, D J Capel, †R J Warren, J N Snape, J E Emburey, J P Taylor and Mohammad Akram did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-149

BOWLING: Drakes 6-0-26-0; Robinson 5-0-13-0; Khan 6.3-0-43-1; Jarvis 6-0-32-0; Phillips 6-1-33-0; Newell 1-0-7-0

Umpires: A G T Whitehead and G Sharp

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup
11.0, 50 overs
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Glamorgan
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v British Universities
DUBLIN (Castle Avenue): Ireland v Middlesex
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Yorkshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Scotland
LAKENHAM: Minor Counties v Derbyshire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Durham
THE OVAL: Surrey v Kent
HOVE: Sussex v Hampshire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Warwickshire

BAIN HOGG TROPHY (one day), Bradford: Yorkshire v Lancashire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
Second division
Chesterfield v Stockport (7.45)

Spalding Cup
Final, second leg
Kidderminster (1) v Macclesfield (1) (7.45)

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Grays

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Workington; Stocksbridge PS v Eastwood Town

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Swansea (at Kingstonians, 7.0); Millwall v Crystal Palace (2.0), Queens Park Rangers v Luton (at Harrow Borough, 7.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v Nottingham Forest (7.0). First division: Huddersfield v Sunderland (7.0), Preston v West Bromwich (7.0); Wolverhampton v Port Vale (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Grimsby (7.0). Third division: Darlington v Wigan (7.0); Doncaster v Walsall (7.0).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Bridlington

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Bournemouth v Swindon (2.0). Cup: Final, first leg: Norwich City v Tottenham

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Studley BKL v King's Heath

OTHER MATCH: Leicester v Brian Little XI (7.45)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English schools Snickers individual schools under19 final: Monkseaton HS v Parmiters (at West Bromwich Albion, noon) English schools snickers schools and colleges, under-19 final: Colchester Sixth Form Coll v Cardinal Newman Coll, Lancashire (at West Bromwich Albion, 4.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: British super-featherweight championship: P J Gallagher (Wood Green holder) v Charles Shepherd (Selkirk). British featherweight championship: Paul Ingle (Scarborough, holder) v Michael Alldis (Crawley) (at Hull).

RACING: Pontefract (2.45), Southwell (2.30).

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Wolverhampton v Bradford (7.30). Premier League Cup: Exeter v Skegness (7.30).

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Fourth division south: Cheltenham v Henley (6.0)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Swansea v Caerphilly (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Ascot (5.30); Bath (2.0); Huntingdon (5.15); Nottingham (2.15)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bath v Gloucester (7.15). Harlequins v Northampton (7.30), Saracens v London Irish (7.30). Second division: Waterloo v Newcastle (6.45)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Bridgend v Cardiff (7.0), Newbridge v Llanelli (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Batley (7.30)

CRICKET

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP (50 overs): Fenner's: British Universities v Sussex. Chester-le-Street: Durham v Northamptonshire; Bristol: Gloucestershire v Surrey; Canterbury: Kent v Hampshire, Old Trafford: Lancashire v Derbyshire. Leicester: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire, Lord's: Middlesex v Essex; Taunton, Somerset v Glamorgan; Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Minor Counties, Headingley: Yorkshire v Worcestershire

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Ascot (2.30); Cheltenham (5.25), Exeter (2.20), Kelso (5.45); Plumpton (2.10)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Poole v Swindon (7.30) Speedway Star Cup: King's Lynn v Ipswich (7.30) Premier League Cup: Hull v Edinburgh (7.30); Long Eaton v Skegness (7.45)

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester).

THURSDAY

RACING: Redcar (2.30), Wolverhampton (2.15).

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League Cup: Sheffield v Edinburgh (7.45)

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester).

FRIDAY

CRICKET

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP (50 overs): Derby: Derbyshire v Yorkshire. Cardiff: Glamorgan v Middlesex; Southampton: Hampshire v Gloucestershire; Canterbury: Kent v Sussex; Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire, Fenner: Scotland v Durham; Taunton: Somerset v Ireland; The Oval: Surrey v British Universities, Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Lancashire; Worcester: Worcestershire v Minor Counties.

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Bangor (6.0); Musselburgh (2.15); Newmarket (2.05); Newton Abbot (1.50), Sedgefield (5.45)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Ipswich (7.30), Premier League Cup: Arena Essex v Skegness (8.0) Edinburgh v Berwick (7.30), Oxford v Reading (7.45) Amateur League: Belle Vue v Ipswich and King's Lynn (9.0)

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Harlequins v Wasps, London Irish v Orrell; Northampton v Gloucester; Sale v Leicester; Saracens v Bath. Second division: Wakefield v Coventry, Waterloo v London Scottish. Third division: Exeter v Reading; Harrogate v Otley; Havant v London Welsh; Leeds v Liverpool St Helens, Lydney v Fylde, Rectruth v Clifton, Walsall v Morley; Wharfedale v Rosslyn Park. Fourth division north: Kendal v Aspatria; Lichfield v Wirmington Park, Preston Grasshoppers v Sandal. Fourth division south: Berry Hill v Tabard; High Wycombe v Camberley, Met Police v Cheltenham, Newbury v Askeans

RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Final: Doncaster v Thanet Wanderers (at Twickenham)

RFU JUNIOR CUP: Final: Crowo and Nantwich v Harpenden (at Twickenham, 1.0)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Bridgend v Pontypridd (2.30), Cardiff v Caerphilly (2.30); Dunvant v Newport (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Treorchy (2.30), Neath v Swansea (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Final: Bradford v St Helens (at Wembley, 2.45)

SILK CUT PLATE: Final: Hull Kingston Rovers v Hunslet (at Wembley, 12.15)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Frankfurt v Scottish Claymores (7.0)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Championship: Semi-finals: Chester v Leopards (6.45); London v Sheffield (6.45) (at Wembley Arena)

BOXING: International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organisation featherweight championship: Naseem Hamed (Sheffield, holder) v Billy Hardy (Sunderland). World Boxing Council super-middleweight championship: Robin Reid (Runcorn, holder) v Henry Wharton (York). World Boxing Organisation light-middleweight championship: Ronald Wright (US, holder) v Steve Foster (Salford) (at Nynex Arena, Manchester)

GOLF: Lytham Trophy (at Royal Lytham). Berkshire Trophy (at The Berkshire)

RACING: Haydock (1.10); Hereford (2.25); Hexham (5.0); Newmarket (2.0), Thirsk (2.20); Uttoxeter (2.10); Warwick (5.45)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v King's Lynn (7.30); Eastbourne v Coventry (7.30), Swindon v Wolverhampton (7.30). Premier League Cup: Berwick v Sheffield (7.0), Stoke v Hull (7.30). Amateur League: Berwick v Mildenhall (6.0)

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

SUNDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bristol v West Hartlepool (3.0). Second division: Newcastle v Rotherham (3.0)

CRICKET

AXA LIFE LEAGUE (40 overs): Derby: Derbyshire v Lancashire, Chelmsford: Essex v Middlesex, Southampton: Hampshire v Yorkshire; Canterbury: Kent v Surrey; Taunton: Somerset v Glamorgan, Hove: Sussex v Nottinghamshire, Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): London Monarchs v Barcelona (at Stamford Bridge, 3.0)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Championship: Final: (at Wembley Arena, 6.45).

GOLF: Lytham Trophy (at Royal Lytham); Berkshire Trophy (at The Berkshire)

MOTORCYCLING: World Superbike championship (at Donington Park)

RACING: Newmarket (2.0), Hamilton (2.20); Salisbury (2.10).

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester).

This week's football, page 30

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a pair of tickets to see The Brit Pack

READERS have the chance to win one of seven pairs of seats to see the five British fighters — Prince Naseem Hamed, Billy Hardy, Robin Reid, Henry Wharton and Steve Foster — who form The Brit Pack. The fighters will contest four world titles, promoted by Sports Network and shown on Sky Box Office.

Topping the bill at the Nynex Arena on Saturday May 3, is Prince Naseem Hamed (pictured), who will defend his WBO and IBF world featherweight titles against European and Commonwealth champion Billy Hardy. Robin Reid makes the second defence of his WBO world super-middleweight title against Commonwealth champion Henry Wharton and Steve 'the Viking' Foster challenges America's Ronald 'Winky' Wright for the WBO world light-middleweight title.

Our first prize winner will receive a pair of ringside tickets plus a fully-installed BT Sky satellite system with decoder and dish (subscription not included). Two pairs of ringside tickets and four pairs of standard tickets will go to six runners-up.

● For further information on this special pay-per-view event starting at 8.00pm and available to Sky subscribers for £11.95/£14.95 after midnight on Friday May 27 please call Sky Television on 0990 800 888.

HOW TO ENTER

Phone your answer to the following question on 0891 333 387 (outside the UK +44 990 200 887) before midnight tonight. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

How many fighters form The Brit Pack?

Calls are charged at 50p per minute

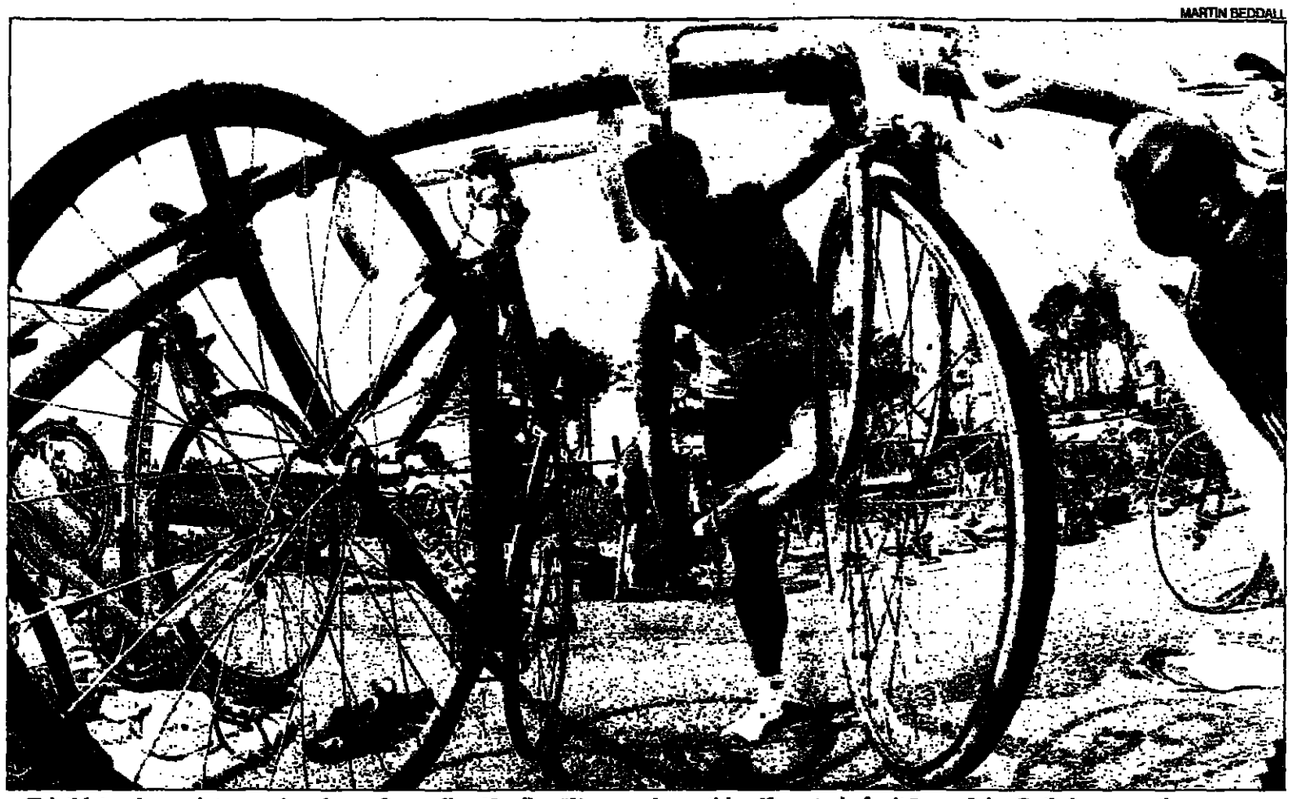
SKY

BT

CHANGING TIMES

London hosts its first triathlon later this year. Participants tell **David Powell** what it takes to enter

Why three's a winner



MARTIN BEDDALL

Triathletes change into running shoes after cycling 18 miles. "You can do anything if you train for it," says John Guthrie, a marathon runner

If a year is too long to wait for the next London Marathon, for another carnival of human spirit and endeavour through the streets of the capital, the London Triathlon offers a new challenge to help to bridge the gap. The first London Triathlon is scheduled for September 21, a mass participation event modelled on the London Marathon, and already athletes who covered the 26 miles 385 yards only two weeks ago are out on their bikes, and in their local pools, preparing to have a go at this latest Olympic sport.

Triathlon, a combination of swimming, cycling and running, makes its Olympic debut at Sydney 2000. In Simon Lessing, Britain has the world champion and, like the London Marathon, the London Triathlon offers novices and club competitors an opportunity to appear on the same stage as the professional luminaries. Lessing has agreed to compete in the London Triathlon, as have the top five British women, Sara Cox, Annaleah Emmerson, Rachel Horn, Sian Brice and Loretta Sollars.

"Most people think of triathlons being for athletes who are abnormal, but it is something most people can do," Lessing says. The London

SPORT FOR ALL

event is certain to be the biggest triathlon yet staged in Britain, and organisers are hoping that soon it will rival the Mrs T's Triathlon in Chicago as the largest in the world, with some 5,000 participants.

Among those entered is John Guthrie who, within four days of completing the London Marathon last week, was having his first swimming lesson. Guthrie, a London-based Scot, is a challenge-hopper. "I have always got something big in the offing," Guthrie says. Such as? "I once drove a motorbike from the Middle East to Scotland, from Oman to Coldstream."

The London Marathon is still in his legs, and the London Triathlon fresh in his mind, but already Guthrie is thinking about the Marathon of the Sands, a 137-mile run across the Sahara, rather than returning to the London Marathon this time next year. "I like new challenges," Guthrie, a financial consultant, 39, says.

His 6,000-mile motorbike marathon saw him jailed in Iraq. "I had to camp out at night but when a couple of lorry drivers stopped and shouted Ali Baba, I worked out I was in bandit country," Guthrie recalls. "So I got back on the bike and drove for about two hours in pitch black. I came across a police station and, when they saw a motorbike, they went crazy, so they put me in jail for the night. It was great, the first time I had a bed for three days."

Arriving back in Scotland, Guthrie wishes he were still back down the road, anywhere on the route except at the finish. "The centre of the Tweed is the border between Scotland and England," he says. "I did not want to go across because that was the journey over."

Guthrie's official London Marathon time was 3hr 57min 12sec, though his watch showed 14 minutes faster. "I lined up in the section I was given, but there were a lot of people in front of me who were not in their correct zone," he says. "I spent the first eight to ten miles sidestepping people, so I could get past."

Although the weather was perfect, around 11C to 12C for the faster runners, the heat increased to an uncomfortable 16C to 17C for those out a long time. Guthrie returned home with a finisher's medal and his "Blackpool tan" showing his vest outline. "I have this vision of people in Blackpool sunbathing with their vests on, two white stripes across their shoulders," he says.

A rugby player for 25 years, Guthrie is new to triathlon. "You can do anything if you train for it," he says. He took up running after "a minor health scare" last year. "I was working too hard. It was a bottle of wine and a curry every night, so I said: 'Right, the marathon.' It forces you out to train."

Sharron Davies, the former British Olympic swimmer and now television presenter on *The Big Breakfast*, will be taking an interest in the London Triathlon, given the participation of Sharon Carter. Cyril Carter, Sharon's father, named his daughter after the swimmer, whom he met through a mutual acquaintance. Sharron is godmother to Carter's other daughter.

"Sharron has always been supportive," Carter, 17, from Greenwich, says. "She sends me kit, swimming costumes and T-shirts for training, and she phones up every now and then to check how I am. She has helped me a lot with my backstroke."

Sharon's father is her coach, with assistance from Sharron. Anxious that his daughter should choose her sport for herself, and not be led by his preferences, Carter planned ahead. "When Sharon was four years old I designed a programme, which I called Programme for Life," Carter says. "I was aware of the two stools that young people can fall between: education and sporting achievement.

"I devised a programme based on gymnastics, swimming and athletics to give her an all-round basis, from which she could then choose a sport she wanted. The first success is that she is still swimming at 17. Now she has elected to do triathlon and study chemistry at university.

"There is a danger with a parent-coach that those decisions are made for the child. There is the fear in a parent coach of the child not following the channel laid down for them, for example a parent who coaches a daughter or son in tennis seeing that sport as the sole object."

As well as being a mass participation event, embracing both novice and elite competitors, the London Triathlon mirrors the London Marathon in another way: it is keenly promoting its charity theme. The competitors are encouraged to raise money for good causes and the organisers have adopted as their official charity the New Lease Trust. The Trust was formed in 1989 to help to support housing and resettlement services for homeless people.

The London Triathlon will begin with a swim in West India Dock, and will be followed by a cycle circuit around the Royal Docks and out towards the City Airport. It ends with a run in and around Canary Wharf, finishing in Cabot Square, beneath Canary Wharf Tower.



Triathlon, a mix of swimming, cycling and running, makes its Olympic debut in 2000

HOW TO ENTER THE TRIATHLON

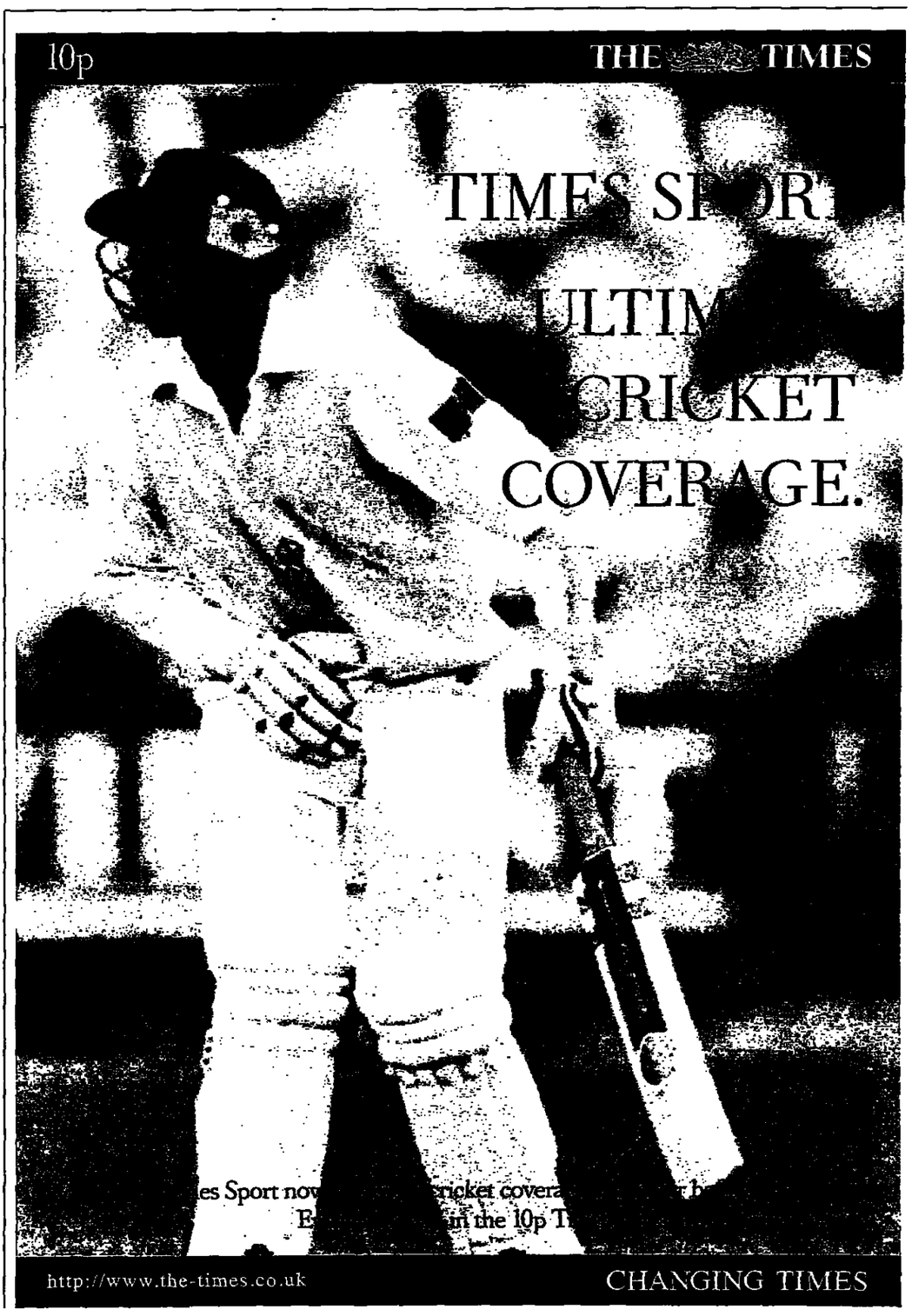
AS WITH the London Marathon, the professionals are paid, the amateurs pay. Triathlons, being more expensive to stage than marathons, demand higher fees. Entry fees for the London Triathlon are: Olympic distance £38; sprint £30, corporate relay £117.50 per team. The sprint will be half the Olympic distance of 1,500 metres for the swim, 40 kilometres for the cycle ride, and 10 kilometres for the run. The corporate relay, in which companies will enter teams of one swimmer, one cyclist and one runner, will be for the whole Olympic distance.

Competitors will be started in waves according to age and ability. The sprint alternative is to encourage entries, although Michael Smithwick, the event manager, says: "We do not want to stop people from accepting the challenge of the Olympic distance. You do the marathon for the challenge of the whole 26 miles." Individuals can combine in the open-team event, representing military, emergency services, health club etc.

Entries are on a first-come, first-served basis, limited to 5,000. When the London Triathlon shared a stand with the British Triathlon Association at the London Marathon exhibition, requests for entry forms took the numbers issued to interested parties to more than 10,000. Entries forms are available from The London Triathlon, 176, Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8ER (0171-928 5055; fax: 0171-928 5628).

FIRST STEPS

IF YOU are planning to enter the London Triathlon, you may need advice on equipment and training. The British Triathlon Association (BTA), which is supporting the London Triathlon, offers an introductory "Do Tri" pack containing details of the clothing required, an eight-week training guide, and information on final preparations for your first race. The pack is £4.50 from the British Triathlon Association, PO Box 26, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2ZR (01530-414234). Alternatively, between now and the London Triathlon, there are a dozen "Do Tri" courses planned for various parts of the country. Details from the BTA.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In a trump contract, when dummy has a long suit and is short of entries, it can often be a good idea for the defence to switch to that suit. Sometimes, that cuts the communications before declarer can draw trumps. Here is an example.

Dealer South — **Love all** — **Rubber bridge**

	♠J6 ♥Q ♦AKJ1097 ♣9432	
♠K107 ♥10973 ♦Q4 ♣Q1075	N W E S	♠Q983 ♥52 ♦8652 ♣AK6
	♠A542 ♥AKJ864 ♦3 ♣J8	

S	W	N	E
1H	Pass	2D	Pass
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South — ***Lead: Five of clubs***

South's reverse bid of Two Spades was a clear overbid; my clone and I would have bid 1H — 2D — 2H — Pass. However, Four Hearts is not without chances.

East wins the club lead with the king and continues with the ace of clubs, noting the fall of declarer's jack. What should he do now? Suppose that East continues with a third club. Declarer's only chance is to hope that West has the queen of diamonds, so he ruffs the club in hand, plays a trump to dummy, crosses back to his ace of spades, draws trumps and takes the diamond finesse. On the actual lie of the cards, he will make 11 tricks.

Now, suppose East switches to a spade. Declarer plays along similar lines: he wins the ace of spades, crosses to the queen of hearts, ruffs a club, draws trumps and takes the diamond finesse for 11 tricks. A trump continuation at trick three would fare no better.

Look at the effect of a diamond switch at trick three. Declarer can cash only two diamond tricks before West ruffs in. Whatever declarer does, he can no longer make his contract.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Final victory

In the final game, Kasparov seemed to have discovered the secret of success against computers. Kasparov, the world champion, opted for a quiet opening, maintaining a fluid yet stifling barrier of pawns in the centre of the board.

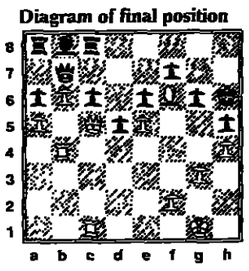
With the accent clearly on strategical, rather than tactical, chess, Kasparov gradually annexed territory until the black position suffocated to death. This was Kasparov's most convincing victory. It enabled him to win by the score of four points to two.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Deep Blue
Philadelphia, 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	c6
3	c4	e6
4	Nbd2	Nf6
5	e3	c5
6	b3	Nc6
7	Bb2	cxd4
8	exd4	Be7
9	Rc1	0-0
10	Bd3	Bd7
11	0-0	Nh5
12	Re1	Nf4
13	Bb1	Bd6
14	g3	Ng6
15	Ne5	Rc8
16	Nxd7	Qxd7
17	Nf3	Bb4
18	Re3	Rfd8
19	h4	Nge7
20	a3	Ba5
21	b4	Bc7
22	c5	Re8
23	Qd3	g6
24	Re2	Nf5
25	Bc3	h5
26	b5	Nce7
27	Bd2	Kg7
28	a4	Ra8
29	a5	a6
30	b6	Bb8
31	Bc2	Nc6
32	Ba4	Re7
33	Bc3	Ne5
34	dxe5	Qxa4
35	Nd4	Nxd4
36	Qxd4	Qd7
37	Bd2	Re8
38	Bg5	Rc8
39	Bf6+	Kh7
40	c6	bxc6
41	Qc5	Kh6
42	Rb2	Qb7
43	Rb4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Prediction

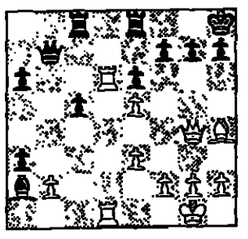
My prediction for the next clash between Kasparov and Deep Blue Mark II, starting in New York on May 3, is that, although the machine has been upgraded from 500 million to 1,000 million positions per second, Kasparov will win and the margin will be 4-2 in his favour, again.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Havasi — Sacconi, Folkestone, 1933. Can you spot White's clever tactical win, based on his kingside activity and control of the d-file?



Solution on page 44

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

KNAPPING
a. Striking
b. A variant of whist
c. A baby's garment

HADDO
a. Channel Island hue-and-cry
b. The salmon
c. Gambling by tossing coins

JACKMAN
a. The leader at knucklebones or dibs
b. An attendant
c. A trout fly

HONISH
a. Sentimental
b. To disgrace
c. Jewish dumpling soup

Answers on page 44

RACING: CORONATION CUP IS OBJECTIVE AFTER PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE WINNER'S IMPRESSIVE RETURN

Helissio has Epsom next on agenda

By Julian Muscat and Liz Price

NOTHING stirs the blood more than the handsome return of a champion and Helissio amplified the mood of celebration at Longchamp yesterday when he ran clean away with the group one Prix Ganay over 10½ furlongs. The four-year-old, who positively toyed with a top-class field, is now poised to weave his magic on British racegoers in the Coronation Cup at Epsom next month.

It should be some occasion. On his first start since forfeiting his aura of invincibility in the Japan Cup five months ago, Helissio returned to his very best on his favoured soft surface. Trojan Sea was entered to ensure a generous pace for the Michael Stoute-trained Pilsudski, who chased home Helissio, albeit at a respectful distance, in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe over this course in October.

But Helissio was having none of it, stripping Trojan Sea of the advantage soon after halfway before galloping home to a thunderous ovation on the 140th anniversary of Longchamp's opening fixture. Pilsudski gave vain chase up the home straight but his exertions told in the closing stages as Le Destin robbed him of second place.

"Helissio was simply brilliant today," Pilsudski's jockey, Michael Kinane, said. "He was just too good for us." Strategic Choice and Last Second, two other raiders from Britain, finished fifth and seventh respectively. Paul Cole did, however, offer some excuse for Strategic Choice. "The ground turned against us with all the rain," he said. "He proved himself last year but the winner was very impressive."

Olivier Peslier, who partnered the 5-3 on favourite, has always championed Helissio's ability, even after the colt finished behind Singspiel, a stablemate of Pilsudski, in Tokyo. "I let him take control today and he accelerated in the straight," Peslier said. "He is even better than last year. Epsom is a very different and particular course but I do not think it will bother Helissio."

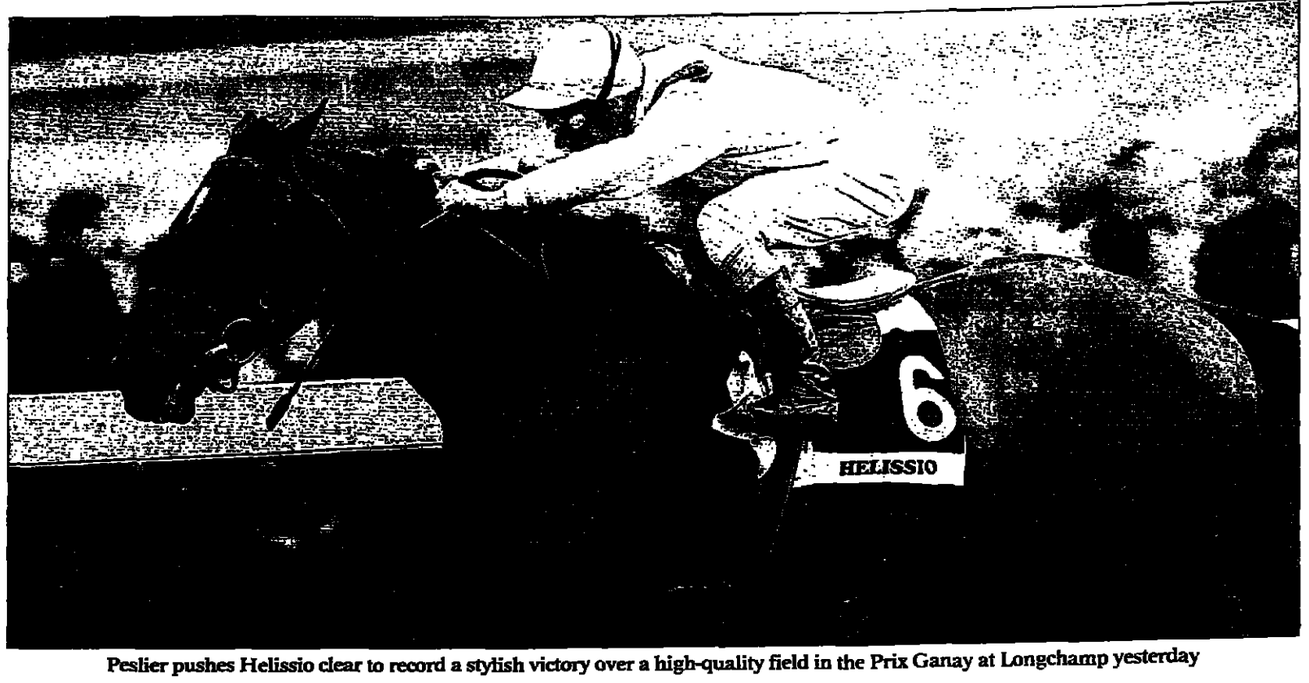
Doubtless his connections will be after Singspiel's scalp, particularly as the latter landed the Dubai World Cup after Helissio's late withdrawal. "I am glad that I did not race him in Dubai," Helissio's trainer, Elie Lellouche, said, "although his three-month holiday did him the world of good." And Lellouche intimated the best was yet to come. "To be honest, he was not 100 per cent fit so his performance today just shows what an outstanding champion he really is."

This contest is scheduled too early in the season for definitive conclusions to be drawn. But Helissio served notice of his intention to dominate all-comers in a strong division of older horses. Certainly the decision of his owner, Enrique Sarasola, to campaign Helissio again this season should be generously rewarded. And the rift between Sarasola and Lellouche, which surfaced in Dubai, will almost certainly have been healed by Helissio's triumph yesterday.

Another British challenger had to be content with a minor placing when Heron Island, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, finished third in the Prix de Barbeville behind the easy winner, Stretarez.

☐ Air Express, trained by Clive Brittain and ridden by Brett Doyle, landed the group two Premio Parioli, the Italian 2,000 Guineas, in Rome yesterday. Air Express, fourth in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket, beat the locally trained Risiat by a nose. Sekari, trained by David Loder, was withdrawn after being found to be lame at the start.

ED BYRNE



Peslier pushes Helissio clear to record a stylish victory over a high-quality field in the Prix Ganay at Longchamp yesterday

LONGCHAMP DETAILS

PRIX GANAY
(Group I: £56,117 1m 2f 110yd)
1, HELISSIO ... O Peslier
2, Le Destin ... T Gillet
3, Pilsudski ... M J Kinane
ALSO RAN River Bay (4th), Strategic Choice (5th), Bulington (6th), Last Second, Trojan Sea. 8 ran. 6l, 1½l, 2l, 3l, 4l. Trained by E Lellouche in France.
Pan-mutuel (inc 1fr stake): 1 60; 1 10, 1.10, 1 10. DF. 22 90

Kinane booked for Entrepreneur

By Julian Muscat

AN IMPORTANT element to the riddle of Entrepreneur's 2,000 Guineas prospects materialised yesterday when Michael Kinane received clearance to ride the horse in Saturday's Newmarket classic.

Kinane's affiliation with Entrepreneur, 4-1 favourite with Ladbrokes, seemed assured when the jockey arrived unannounced to exercise Entrepreneur at Sandown on Saturday. Dermot Weld, the Irish trainer with first claim on Kinane's services, yesterday confirmed the arrangement. "Michael will ride Entrepreneur," Weld said. "Dance Design runs at the Curragh on the same day but Pat Shanahan will ride her."

His identity apparently unknown to the Sandown executive, Entrepreneur arrived at the track for a key gallop early on Saturday morning. By all accounts he impressed in Kinane's hands, quickening away from Sacrament, a group two winner, at the end of 7½ furlongs.

The pity was that Stoute elected to shroud the gallop in secrecy. One can appreciate Stoute's dilemma: here is an untested horse attracting a flurry of hefty bets for the 2,000 Guineas, yet one about which the public remains largely ignorant. Stoute demands privacy for his horses's homework but the betting public, whose contribution towards the sport's funding far exceeds any other, cannot now be expected to embrace the 2,000 Guineas with enthusiasm. It would have been quite harmless to compile television footage of Entrepreneur's gallop for public consumption.

No one outside the colt's immediate connections is entitled to know the respective weights carried by Entrepreneur and Sacrament. Without such details, meaningful assessment of the gallop is impossible. Exacerbating the discontent is the compliant role of Sandown's executive — despite its pleas of ignorance.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BOLLIN HARRY
(3.45 Pontefract)
Next best: Night Of Glass
(5.15 Pontefract)

Richard Evans selected Harwell Lad (14-1) in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park on Saturday

Sandown's proprietors are also those of Epsom, home of the Derby, for which Entrepreneur dominates the ante-post betting. Epsom's management complains the race is unfairly maligned yet a priority is to balance the requirements of trainers and racegoers. The episode underlines just how much remains to be transformed if racing genuinely wants to embrace its paying customers.

It was all so different when Revoque, Yashmak and Reams Of Verse worked at Newbury racecourse on Saturday morning. Details were circulated in advance, and observers of Revoque will have seen him stretch three or four lengths clear of Panama City in the hands of John Reid. "He has come on from his run in the Greenham," Reid said of the 2,000 Guineas candidate. "He feels the finished article."

Meanwhile, Yashmak worked with enthusiasm alongside Reams Of Verse; both tackle the 1,000 Guineas on Sunday. With Kieren Fallon sticking by Sleepytime, Henry Cecil, who will be three-handed in the fillies' classic, has engaged Kinane for Yashmak. Pat Eddery continues on Reams Of Verse.

Five-timer promotes Mitchell in title race

Point-to-point
by Carl Evans

WHILE Rupert Nuttall was in Surrey demonstrating how they tackle hedges in the Blackmore Vale, Tim Mitchell went to the Berkeley meeting in Gloucestershire and chalked up five winners.

Mitchell, whose talents were displayed on Fantus at Cheltenham in March, had never bettered a double before, yet, perversely, his only real show of euphoria came when word reached him that Barnsley had gained promotion to the Premiership.

The five winners — The Cockertoo for Jane Bailey, Nearly An Eye, Strong Chairman and Desert Waltz for Richard Barber, and Moorlough Bay for Trevor Leigh — had a radical effect on the men's championship, with Mitchell ending Saturday just one behind Julian Pritchard.

Pritchard spent the afternoon chasing his rival, at one time giving him a friendly push as they pulled up. Pritchard and Micky Harris certainly played their part in the race of the day as Nearly An Eye battled to hold off Lets Twist Again and Frozen Pipe in the intermediate.

Richard Barber trained four winners. Earthmover taking the Greig Middleton ladies' qualifier from Sams Heritage. Jamie Jukes stayed in contention for a title he won last year by riding four winners at the Llangeinor meeting, but Pip Jones will have been especially happy with her treble at the same meeting.

Those three victories took her to 19 and a lead of one in the women's championship. Shirley Vickery ensured she did not lose too much ground with a double at the Teme Valley, although both will fear the return from injury of Polly Curling next week.

PONTEFRACT

THUNDERER
2.45 Out Like Magic — 4.15 Power Game
3.15 Baby Jane — 4.45 Upper Mount Clair
3.45 Grey Kingdom — 5.15 AUGUSTAN (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 GREY KINGDOM.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 MAMORA BAY (nap). 4.15 Blockade. 5.15 Czarna.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND TOTE NOVICE STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,013: 5f) (10 runners)

101	(3)	412	OUT LIKE MAGIC 10 (D,F) (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 8-13	J F Egan	92
102	(6)		COOL SECRET (The Glona Darley Racing Pnrs.) A Mulholland 8-12	M Birch	–
103	(9)	21	LORD SMITH 28 (D,F) (Mrs M Tavershem) W G M Turner 8-12	D McGaffin (7)	85
104	(2)	23	MAMMA'S BOY 12 (BF) (G Tinbocchi) J Berry 8-12	T E Durcan (5)	85
105	(5)	3	MAMORA BAY 11 (D Winter) M Tompkins 8-12	R Hills	92
106	(4)		NEWHARSEN (P Green (Huytan)) P Evans 8-12	A Culhane	–
107	(7)	231	CLASSY CLEO 23 (D,F) (Mrs A Kane) R Hannon 8-9	Pat Eddery	89
108	(8)		BAJAN GIRL (D Morton) A Balley 8-7	S Sanders	–
109	(1)		BROOKHOUSE LADY (Mr & Mrs D Smart) R Hollinshead 8-7	F Lynch (3)	–
110	(10)		LINNETSONG (R Cook) G Oldroyd 8-7	M McAndrew	–

BETTING: 5-2 Classy Cleo, 3-1 Mamora Bay, 4-1 Out Like Magic, 7-1 Mamma's Boy, Lord Smith, 10-1 others.

1996: RUDE AWAKENING 9-0 Paul Eddery (4-6 fav) G Lewis 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

OUT LIKE MAGIC head 2nd of 7 to Penniless in maiden at Thirsk (5f, good to firm). COOL SECRET (hooded blkr 4: cost 6,500gns). Second foal, by Petorius dam multiple 1m/1m 2f winner LORD SMITH beat Who Nose 2l in 8-runner seller at Nottingham (5f, good to firm). MAMMA'S BOY 1¼l 3rd of 10 to Young Ilne in maiden over course and distance (good to firm) MAMORA BAY 2l 3rd of 6 to Blakeset in maiden at Newmarket (5f, good to firm) CLASSY CLEO beat Heavenly Ardsone 1¼l in maiden at Beverley (5f, good to firm) Selection: MAMMA'S BOY

3.15 TOTE CREDIT SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,427: 1m 4f 8yd) (14 runners)

201	(12)	333340	SKELTON SOVEREIGN 21 (F) (G Balley) R Hollinshead 9-5	F Lynch (3)	90
202	(9)	450050-	BALLYONERO 177 (A Brooke Rankin) J Wilson 8-12	Angela Hartley (7)	80
203	(4)	50000-0	CAPTAIN FLINT 20 (Mrs G Wood) A Smith 8-12	M Birch	76
204	(6)		FORTUNE HOPPER (N Hanger) J Pearce 8-12	G Bardwell	–
205	(2)		GUARD A DREAM (Mary Reveley Racing Club) Mrs M Reveley 8-12	A Culhane	–
206	(9)	000-	SMART PROSPECT 231 (Smart Racing) B Meehan 8-12	Pat Eddery	–
207	(3)	6-80	ARBOREAL 33 (M Griffiths) Mrs L Stubbs 8-7	K Fallon	78
208	(7)	455-362	BABY JANE 16 (BF) (D Lloyd) R Guest 8-7	P Bloomfield	98
209	(5)		LINDRICK LADY (B Rothwell) B Rothwell 8-7	M Fenton	–
210	(1)	0	MARYS PATH 6 (R Houltont) S Gollings 8-7	Paul Eddery	–
211	(10)	000-0	MECHILE 20 (Sir Simon Lycett Green) J Payne 8-7	A McGlone	–
212	(14)	60566	MISSED MAY 14 (Esprit de Corps Racing) B Baugh 8-7	R Flrench (5)	80
213	(11)	430503	ROCHEA 20 (J Teasdale) Mrs N Macauley 8-7	S Sanders	69
214	(13)	0	ROCK IT ROSIE 17 (Mrs P Redd) J Scaggill 8-7	M Roberts	–

BETTING: 11-4 Baby Jane, 4-1 Rochea, 5-1 Skelton Sovereign, 10-1 Guard A Dream, 12-1 others.

1996: FOUR WEDDINGS 8-12 M Fenton (6-1) M Bell 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

SKELTON SOVEREIGN 10½l 3rd to Castles Burning in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m) with BABY JANE (17lb better off) 20¼l 6th. Earlier beat Track Di My Tears 3l in seller at Leicester (1m 2f, good to firm) with BALLYONERO (7lb better off) 5½l 5th and CAPTAIN FLINT (7lb better off) 3¼l 7th. ARBOREAL 11l 12th to Sharpo Wassl in maiden at Folkestone (7f, good) BABY JANE 11l 2nd to Mirror Four Sport in seller at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f) 79yds) ROCHEA 3¼l 3rd of 15 to Rocatte in selling handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm) with MECHILE (25lb worse off) 9¼l 7th and CAPTAIN FLINT (21lb worse off) 3¼l 7th. ARBOREAL 11l 12th to Sharpo Wassl in maiden at

3.45 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP (£5,481: 6f) (17 runners)

301	(1)	236052-	MOUSEHOLE 235 (D,F) (Mrs J Lindsay) R Guest 5-9-11	Paul Eddery	80
302	(6)	00000-4	BOLLIN HARRY 19 (CD,F,G) (Sir Mel Westbrook) T Easterby 5-9-11	M Birch	85
303	(11)	3-43680	BARREL OF HOPE 28 (B,CD,F,G,S) (P Watson) J Eyre 5-9-9	O Pears (3)	83
304	(14)	00100-5	BOWLERS BOY 9 (CD,F) (Bowlers Racing) J Quinn 4-9-8	J Quinn	83
305	(2)	0-05205	SARO 2 (G) (Mrs M Clayton) A Balley 4-9-4	D Wright	87
306	(15)	134160-	GWESPYR 201 (F,G) (M Al-Shaabi) R Hannon 4-9-2	Pat Eddery	89
307	(13)	130-	SILVER FURSE 254 (D,F) (A Jones) A Jones 3-9-2	B Doyle	81
308	(8)	150-000	BARATO 11 (C,D,F,G) (D Young) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9-0	J Fortune	85
309	(4)	23520-	NIGHT FLIGHT 219 (C Stevens) J J O'Neill 3-8-13	K Fallon	80
310	(12)	0050-00	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 9 (G) (A Black) M W Easterby 4-8-11	T Lucas	84
311	(16)	32350-0	NED'S BONANZA 11 (D,F,G) (M Jones) M Dods 8-8-10	F Lynch (3)	93
312	(10)	02400-6	SOUPERFICIAL 7 (V,CD,F,G) (Mrs C Cowley) N Tinkler 8-8-9	Kim Tinkler	86
313	(17)	000-644	BE WARNED 18 (B,D,F,G) (N Riddell) M Dods 6-8-8	J Egan	83
314	(5)	1-05106	TWIN CREEKS 10 (F,G) (The Armchair Jockeys) W Stowe 6-8-4	C Rutter	90
315	(3)	024610-	DENSBEN 193 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Pitts) Denys Smith 13-8-4	A Culhane	82
316	(9)	363400-	SONDERISE 233 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 8-8-4	M Roberts	89
317	(7)	550-311	GREY KINGDOM 3 (D,F,G) (M Brittain) M Brittain 6-8-1 (7ex)	D Mernagh (7)	89

BETTING: 5-2 Grey Kingdom, 7-1 Bollin Harry, 8-1 Baraio, Mousehole, 10-1 Barrel Of Hope, Gwespyr, 12-1 Ned's Bonanza. Night Flight, 14-1 Be Warned, Bowlers Boy, 16-1 others.

1996: BARREL OF HOPE 4-9-8 R Lappin (14-1) J Eyre 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOUSEHOLE sh hd 2nd to Squire Corrie in handicap at Salisbury (5f firm) with NED'S BONANZA (4lb better off) sh hd 3rd. BOLLIN HARRY 3¼l 4th to French Grl in handicap at Ripon (6f, good to firm). BOWLERS BOY beat Captain Carat ¾l in handicap over course and distance (good to firm), with NED'S BONANZA (5lb better off) 1¼l 3rd GWESPYR beat Stushe ½l in rated stakes at Nottingham (5f, good to firm) NED'S BONANZA head 2nd of 10 to Rich Glow over course and distance (good to firm), with SONDERISE (11lb better off) 2¼l 4th. BE WARNED 3l 4th to Three Arch Bridge in handicap at Newcastle (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start. DENSBEN beat Prima Silk head in claiming handicap at Haydock (6f, good) with BARATO (4lb better off) 3l 3rd. GREY KINGDOM beat Amron 4l in handicap at Carlisle (6f, good). Selection: BOLLIN HARRY

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SOUTHWELL SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 29 winners from 102 runners, 28.5%, M Magnie, 3 from 12, 25.0%, M Pipe, 3 from 13, 23.1%, J Banks, 9 from 40, 22.5%; M Johnston, 50 from 226, 22.1%, M Prescott, 18 from 91, 19.8%. JOCKEYS: D Denby, 4 winners from 13 rides, 30.8%, M Hills, 7 from 36, 19.4%; R Havlin, 3 from 16, 18.8%, D Harrison, 29 from 142, 18.2%; Jo Hunnam, 4 from 25, 16.0%.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.15 TOTE DUAL FORECAST LIMITED STAKES
(£2,724: 1m 4yd) (19 runners)

401	(7)	-133120	GADEE 10 (D,F,6,S) (J Wilcox) A Balley 8-9-10	D Wright	94
402	(11)	1301-45	POWER GAME 16 (D,F,G) (Countrywide Racing) J Berry 4-9-10	M Roberts	92
403	(10)	046-580	APPEAL AGAIN 44 (Miss S Pramley) D Burchell 4-9-8	D McKeown	–
404	(2)	033101-	BLOCKADE 277 (D,F,6,S) (A Warrender) M Bell 8-9-8	M Fenton	90
405	(19)	445/2P-6	EVAN 'ELP US 77 (B,G) (The 'Er Indoors Club) J Eyre 5-9-8	O Pears (3)	88
406	(5)	030/2-20	HOLDERS HILL 27J (C Whitaley) M Meagher 5-9-8	J Quinn	91
407	(3)	10/3500-	MONEGHETTI 295 (D,G) (P Harvey) J L Harris 6-9-6	A Culhane	–
408	(16)	00000-0	ORIOLE 21 (F,S) (E Indisa) E Incisa 4-8-8	Kim Tinkler	–
409	(14)	006-505	RAFTER-J 12 (CD,G,S) (W Mealy) J A Harris 6-9-6	T G McLaughlin	75
410	(6)	25/440-	STONE CROSS 2454J (Mrs D Miller) M Todhunter 5-9-5	P Fessey (5)	–
411	(8)	440000-	DELIGHT OF DAWN 161 (C,D,F,G) (Damont Eng) E Wheeler 5-9-5	A Daly (5)	92
412	(12)	10000-0	GYMCRAK FLYER 10 (C,D,F,G) (Gymcrak Racing Club) G Holmes 6-9-5	K Fallon	95
413	(4)	0344-04	HEATHYARDS LADY 25 (D,F,G) (I Morgan) R Hollinshead 5-9-5	F Lynch (3)	85
414	(9)	1360-00	LILA PEDIGO 23 (G) (G Dewe) Miss J Goss 4-9-5	M Connorton	92
415	(18)	235643-	PARSA 178 (F) (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 4-9-5	Pat Eddery	95
416	(17)	4P-23	PERANG POLLY 67 (V,BF) (Lord Donoghue) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-5	D Harrison	89
417	(15)	80601-2	EPIC STAND 7 (D,F) (C Watson) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-10	J Fortune	89
418	(1)	06-15	MYSTERIUM 58 (BF,G) (Mrs G Taylor) N Littmoden 3-8-10	B Doyle	95
419	(13)	000-	BOBBITT 182 (W McGregor) W Jarvis 3-8-5	Paul Eddery	88

BETTING: 6-1 Epic Stand, 7-1 Blockade, Parsa, 8-1 Power Game, 10-1 Perang Polly, Gadge, 12-1 Gymcrak Flyer, Lila Pedigo, Mysterium, 14-1 Bobbitt, Holders Hill, 16-1 others.

1996: SHARRISHAYES 4-9-8 D McKeown (11-2) Mrs M Reveley 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

GADGE sh hd 3rd of 16 to Rambo Waltzer in apprentices handicap at Hamilton (1m 57yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. POWER GAME 4l 4th of 17 to Gull Shoal in handicap at Beverley (7f 100yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. BLOCKADE beat Uncle George neck in 12-runner claimer at Brighton (7f, firm) GYMCRAK FLYER 4½l 8th of 16 to Merandi in handicap at Thirsk (7f, good to firm) PARSA 3¼l 3rd of 17 to Scenario in a handicap at Nottingham (1m, soft) with ORIOLE (19lb worse off) 7¼l 7th. PERANG POLLY neck 2nd of 9 to First Chance in maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f) on penultimate start. EPIC STAND 6l 2nd of 18 to Rasayel in lady riders handicap at Nottingham (1m 3f, good to firm) MYSTERIUM beat Sharpo Wassl neck in 11-runner maiden auction at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f) on penultimate start. BOBBITT 12l 7th of 13 to Dragonada in maiden at Warwick (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start Selection: EPIC STAND (nap)

4.45 TOTE MARATHON HANDICAP (£3,067: 2m 5f 122yd) (16 runners)

501	(4)	1565-45	UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 16 (C,F,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 7-10-0	B Doyle	95
502	(2)	12210-0	CHRIS'S LAD 17 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs S McCarthy) B Meehan 6-9-9	Pat Eddery	91
503	(12)	036-300	MISTER ASPECTO 18 (F,G) (Aspecto Clothing Co) M Johnston 4-9-3	M Roberts	90
504	(11)	00/222-0	CASTLE SECRET 16 (F,S) (Mrs R Burchell) D Burchell 11-9-1	D McKeown	91
505	(6)	42040/	AARDWOLF 283 (Lady Camilla Derrington) C Brooks 5-8-10	K Fallon	–
506	(8)	0-0104	STONECUTTER 18 (V,S) (Pelbosco Pnrs) M Channon 4-8-2	Paul Eddery	96
507	(14)	30/0145	ALCIAN BLUE 17 (C,F) (Rytrandi Co Ltd) M Hammond 6-7-12	Dale Gibson	92
508	(13)	00-1540	SUDDEN SPIN 17 (F,G) (S Parnell J Norton 7-7-12	J Quinn	98
509	(15)	15D-302	ALL ON (G) (H Hackerton) J Hetherton 7-7-11	R Flrench (5)	86
510	(11)	00060-5	GENTLEMAN SID 6 (F) (Miss J Colbeck) P Murphy 7-7-11	F Norton	80
511	(9)	00-5260	THORNTOUN ESTATE 18 (B,G) (W Johnstone) M Todhunter 4-7-10	P Fessey (5)	80
512	(3)	0605-	PRECIOUS ISLAND 44J (J Ellis) P Dalton 4-7-10	N Kennedy	–
513	(16)	000/021	HIGH FIVE 55 (G) (D Wilson) R Ingram 7-7-10	G Bardwell	92
514	(10)	4565-31	TANCRED MISCHIEF 14 (F) (D Barker) D Barker 6-7-10	Darren Moffatt (3)	90
515	(5)	30-0020	TOP PRIZE 17 (V,F,G) (Mr Brittain) M Brittain 9-7-10	J Lowe	90
516	(7)	0/0060/	BLACK ICE BOY 95J (Mrs J Bjerrum) R Bastman 6-7-10	D Wright	–

Long handicap: Thornton Estate 7-8, Precious Island 7-7 High Five 7-6, Tancred Mischief 7-6, Top Prize 7-2, Black Ice Boy 7-7

BETTING: 3-1 Upper Mount Clair, 5-1 Chris's Lad, 6-1 All On, Tancred Mischief, 8-1 Stonecutter 10-1 Aardwolf, High Five, 12-1 Castle Secret, Mister Aspecto, 14-1 others.

1996: IZZA 5-7-10 J Quinn (5-1) W Storey 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

UPPER MOUNT CLAIR (3l 4th of 10 to Onefourseven in handicap at Doncaster (2m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start. CHRIS'S LAD best effort beat Candle Smoke 3¼l 3rd in 11-runner handicap at Sandown (2m 78yd, good). CASTLE SECRET 1½l 2nd of 7 to Meadow in a handicap at Chepstow (2m 5f, good to firm) on penultimate start with GENTLEMAN SID (5lb better off) 3¾l 5th ALCIAN BLUE 5¾l 6th of 11 to Kingko in handicap at Beverley (2m, good to firm) with SUDDEN SPIN (4lb better off) 9½l 8th and TOP PRIZE (1lb better off) 7l 10th. HIGH FIVE beat Outstayed Welcome 3½l in 9-runner handicap at Lingfield (AW, 2m). TANCRED MISCHIEF beat Anchorena ¼l in handicap at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm). Selection: TANCRED MISCHIEF

5.15 TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP (£3,818: 1m 2f 6yd) (13 runners)

601	(5)	55/2-320	TERDAD 17 (M Burke's 5th Family Settlement) T Barron 4-10-0	D Harrison	91
602	(9)	4000-00	EAGLE CANYON 42 (F,G) (C Lane Jnr) B Hanbury 4-10-0	D O'Donohoe (3)	93
603	(13)	53000-3	DANEGALD 32 (V,D,BF,F,G,S) (Circular Dist Ltd) M Channon 5-9-11	R Hughes	86
604	(6)	24600-0	MIDDAY COWBOY 19 (Weberby Racing Bureau 29) M Hammond 4-9-8	K Fallon	95
605	(4)	F105-00	NOSEY NATIVE 16 (D,F,S) (J Pearce) J Pearce 4-9-3	M Wigham	88
606	(11)	00-4002	CZARNA 7 (G) (Mrs S Collins) C Brittain 6-9-3	B Doyle	89
607	(2)	00326-3	SHAFFSHAYES 30 (C,F,G) (P D-Brown) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-3	D McKeown	88
608	(10)	23100-3	KNIGHT OF GLASS 17 (BF,F) (K Silvester, B Silvester) J Eyre 4-8-12	G Hind	95
609	(3)	000215-	KERNOF 177J (CD,F) (J Gduct) M Hammond 4-8-7	F Lynch (3)	94
610	(8)	0-51420	ROAD RACER 7 (G) (J Sayers) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-7	J Fortune	97
611	(1)	41500-4	AUGUSTAN 23 (D,F) (Northern Bloodstock Racing) S Gollings 6-8-7	Pat Eddery	91
612	(7)	0/05-500	SHEEMORE 18 (Wiltshire Racing Bureau 30) M Hammond 4-7-10	Dale Gibson	82
613	(12)	0250-00	TOMAL 33 (F) (Wendover Racing) R Ingram 5-7-10	J Quinn	90

Long handicap: Tomal 7-8.

BETTING: 9-2 Night Of Glass, 5-1 Augustan, Danegald, 6-1 Czarna, 8-1 Road Racer, Shaffshayes, 10-1 others

1996: REMAADI SUN 4-9-3 R Street (11-1) M Usher 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

TERDAD 3¼l 2nd to MyRoof in maiden at Newcastle (1m, good) on penultimate start. DANEGALD 1¾l 2nd to Glastos in handicap at Leicester (1m 2f, good to firm). CZARNA neck 2nd to Salley Ann in handicap at Brighton (1m, firm). SHAFFSHAYES 1l 3rd to Dangeroey in rated stakes at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). NIGHT OF GLASS 4½l 3rd to Gymcrak Premiere in handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, good to firm) with TERDAD (2lb better off) 3½l 10th. ROAD RACER 4l 2nd of 12 to Dancing Cavalier in handicap at Nottingham (1m 6f, good to firm) AUGUSTAN 2¾l 4th to Scambles Way in handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, good to firm). Selection: NIGHT OF GLASS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Pease	7	24	29.2	Pat Eddery	14	34	41.2
J Dunlop	12	46	26.1	J Egan	3	14	21.4
B Hanbury	5	26	19.2	K Fallon	35	185	18.9
Mrs J Ramsden	32	175	18.3	A McGlone	4	23	17.4
R Hannon	5	28	17.9	G Bardwell	4	35	11.4
W Jarvis	3	17	17.6	J Quinn	10	89	11.2

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S SIX MEETINGS

Sandown Park

2.15 1, Smooth Sailing (20-1); 2, Ron's Pet (9-1); 3, Prose (4-1). Emperor Naheem 100-30 fav 10 ran.

2.50 1, Kenmore-Speed (7-2 jt-fav); 2, Stately Home (7-1); 3, Full Of Bounce (33-1). Fine Thyne 7-2 jt-fav (f). 8 ran

3.30 1, Harwell Lad (14-1); 2, Flyer's Nap (4-1 jt-fav); 3, McGregor The Third (13-2) Barton Bank 4-1 jt-fav (f) 9 ran.

4.10 1, Voyagers Quest (11-2), 2, Benny The Dip (13-8 fav), 3, Silver Patriarch (9-2) 6 ran.

4.45 1, Sasuru (13-2; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Multicoloured (11-2); 3, All-Royal (15-8 fav) 7 ran

5.15 1, Amyas (6-1); 2, Burning Truth (5-1), 3, No More Pressure (5-1) Rapier 4-1 fav 11 ran.

5.50 1, Haitab (16-1); 2, Sabrina (9-2); 3, Bishops Court (11-4 jt-fav) Bilko 11-4 jt-fav 10 ran NR Mellksah.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,160.32 carried forward to Pontefract today).

Leicester

2.00 1, Oggi (8-1), 2, Knowy Hill (12-1), 3, Mister Jolson (14-1); 4, Weetman's Weigh (12-1). Friendly Brave 6-1 fav 17 ran.

2.30 1, Ruzen (7-4 fav); 2, Quiz Master (10-1), 3, Aunigny (25-1) 16 ran

3.00 1, Venetian Scene (18-1), 2, Recourse (8-1), 3, Drive Assured (14-1) Henley 7-4 fav 9 ran

3.35 1, Kinnescash (13-2), 2, Premier Generation (20-1), 3, Arzani (16-1), 4, Aztec Flyer (16-1) Father Dan 11-2 jt-fav 18 ran NR Hawkish

4.05 1, Wizard King (7-2); 2, Polar Prince (9-2), 3, Ramooz (3-1 fav) 10 ran

4.35 1, Kennemara Star (6-1), 2, Wild Sky (5-1 fav), 3, Doc Ryan's (9-1); 4, Carlton (6-1) 19 ran

5.05 1, Tanausa (1-3 fav; Richard Evans's nap), 2, Spartan Royale (25-1), 3, Machiavelli (6-1) 16 ran.

5.35 1, Rocky Oasis (4-5 fav), 2, Mumaris (6-1), 3, King Kato (3-1) 16 ran

Ripon

2.05 1, Ten Past Six (5-1); 2, Action Jackson (6-1), 3, Yuppy Girl (15-2). Finsbury Flyer 9-4 fav. 13 ran.

2.35 1, Lady Moll (5-2); 2, Riley Bngg (8-1) 3, Going Places (11-8 fav) 8 ran

3.05 1, Denton Lad (14-1); 2, Always Alight (12-1), 3, Snell (14-1), 4, Return Of Amin (7-2 fav) 18 ran

3.40 1, Here Comes Herbie (9-1), 2, Tumpole (7-2); 3, Siege Perilous (100-30 fav) 9 ran

4.15 1, Lawahik (5-1), 2, Double Alleged (5-1), 3, Banbury (100-30) Momtor 8-5 fav 9 ran

4.50 1, Knobbleeneeze (14-1), 2, Marjaana (16-1); 3, Bedazzle (11-1), 4, Ablest (50-1). Paint It Black Evens fav 19 ran. NR Katie Nomate

5.20 1 Harbour Dues (5-4 fav); 2, Star Selection (6-1); 3, Greenstead (3-1). 5 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, Forzing Bid (9-2); 2, Magic Fizz (9-1); 3, Don't Worry Mike (11-4 fav) 13 ran

7.30 1, First Maite (9-1), 2, Featherstone Lane (12-1), 3, Palacegate Jack (11-2), Kalar 9-4 fav 10 ran

8.00 1, Eurolink The Lad (11-1), 2, Wildfire (9-1), 3, Nicola's Princess (25-1). Shanghai Lil 11-2 fav 13 ran

8.30 1, Random Kindness (7-1), 2, All On (25-1), 3, Noutari (7-2) Sedbergh 6-4 fav 11 ran

9.00 1, Wilfred Sherman (9-4), 2, Jack-N-Jilly (16-1); 3, Pink Ticket (7-2) Diamond Steve 7-4 fav 5 ran. NR Carnation King

9.30 1, Theatre Magic (11-1); 2, Sis Garden (7-1); 3, Johnnie The Joker (100-30 fav) 12 ran

LEADERS ON THE FLAT

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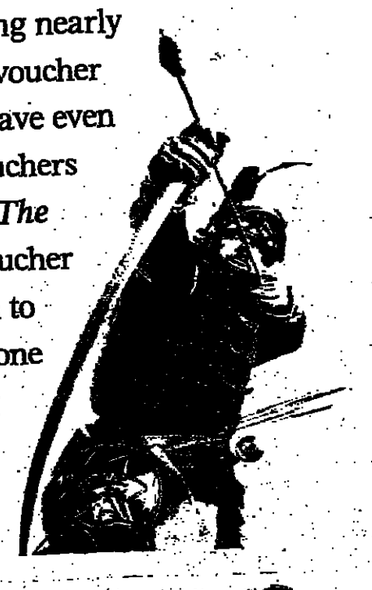
THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (WLAF). Amsterdam Admirals 34 London Monarchs 6, Barcelona Dragons 10 Frankfurt Galaxy 17. Scottish Claymores 10 Rhein Fire 23

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Port Adelaide 10 13 (73) bt Brisbane Lions 10 11 (71). Geelong 13 16 (94) bt Carlton 12 14 (86); North Melbourne 21 15 (141) bt Richmond 7.4 (46); Hawthorn 15.9 (99) bt Sydney Swans 11 8 (74), West Coast Eagles 19 12 (126) bt Melbourne 12.6 (78); Adelaide Crows 19.7 (121) bt Western Bulldogs 9 17 (71). Fremantle Dockers 16.11 (107) bt St Kilda 15 11 (101). Collingwood 14 15 (99) bt Essendon 10 10 (70).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New York 109 Charlotte 93 (New York lead best-of-five series 2-0). Western Conference: Utah 105 Los Angeles Clippers 99 (Utah lead 2-0); Houston 96 Minnesota 84 (Houston lead 2-0).

BOWLS

ENGLISH PLAYERS ASSOCIATION SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP: First round: D Holt bt S Airey 5-7, 7-5, 7-2; G A Smith bt I Jefferies 7-2, 7-3; L Gillett bt M Yung 7-5, 5-7, 7-4, W Richards bt I Jenkins 1-7, 7-2, 7-4; M Bennett bt P Barracott 3-7, 7-2, 7-1; A E Thomson bt M Sharpe 2-7, 7-4, 7-2; D Ward bt W Jackson (holder) 7-3, 6-7, 7-1; G Harlow bt S Pearce 7-1, 7-0. Quarter-finals: Holt bt Smith 7-6, 5-7, 7-5, Gillett bt Richards 2-7, 7-5, 7-5, Bennett bt Thomson 7-6, 7-5; Harlow bt Ward 7-2, 7-2. Semi-finals: Gillett bt Holt 7-2, 6-7, 7-5, Harlow bt Bennett 7-3, 7-2. Final: Harlow bt Gillett 7-5, 7-3

MERRYLAND, Sydney: Jack High International singles: Semi-finals: R Brassey (NZ) bt A Allcock (Eng) 8-9, 9-4, 9-8; S Glasson (Aus) bt K Harlow (Aus) 9-5, 5-9, 9-2. Final: Glasson bt Brassey 9-4, 9-3.

ISCA, Exeter: Disability sport England inter-regional pairs championship: Semi-finals: W Curran and D Warham (North West) bt N Elder and A Evans (Wales) 9-6, P Powell and T Clarke (London) bt M Townsend and D Porter (Yorks and Humberside) 11-1. Final: Powell and Clarke bt Curran and Warham 10-2

LODDON VALE: Inn Business Ltd home counties indoor championships: Singles: Quarter-finals: W Short (Surrey) bt R Ayres (Hertfordshire) 21-9, M Bantock (Berkshire) bt S Meade (Buckinghamshire) 21-13; G Hesketh (Sussex) bt S Marrett (Middlesex) 21-12, T Bailey (Hampshire) bt D Holmes (Kent) 21-9. Semi-finals: Hesketh bt Short 21-11; Bailey bt Bantock 21-5. Final: Hesketh bt Bailey 21-16. Fours: Final: Sussex bt Berkshire 8-7. Inter-county championship: Final: Kent bt Buckinghamshire 191-124

BRITISH WHEELCHAIR BOWLS ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS: South West area. Finals: Men: B Hicks (Teignbridge) bt M Phillips (Plymouth Mayflower) 21-14. Women: M Ralfs (Northavon) bt J Dean (Kingsley) 21-6

BOXING

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey: World Boxing Union heavyweight championship: George Foreman (US, holder) bt Lou Savarese (US) pts.

ZURICH: World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight championship: Ralf Rocchigiani (Ger, holder) bt Stefan Angelmn (Switz) pts

GREENBANK LEISURE CENTRE, Swadlincote: European middleweight championship: Hassane Chemti (Fr, holder) bt Neville Brown (Burton) rsc 6th. Heavyweight (4mds): Israel Ajosa (Finchley) bt Albert Call (Grimsby) pts. Welterweight (6mds): Paul Ryan (Hackney) bt Michael Monaghan (Nottingham) rsc 2nd. Featherweight (8mds): Dean Pithie (Coventry) bt Dave Morris (Cardiff) pts. Super-bantamweight (4mds): Esham Pickering (Newark) bt Mick Devenney (Paisley) pts.

PHUKET, Thailand: World Boxing Council bantamweight championship: Sirimongkol Singmanussak (Thai, holder) bt Javier Campanario (Sp) ko 4th

CRICKET

CAPE TOWN: Standard Bank Cup: Final, first leg: Natal 174, Western Province 175-4 (G Kirsten 82) Western Province win by six wickets

Club matches

MURRAY SMITH & CO CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Macclesfield 199-5 dec Hoalon Mersey 143-5, Poynton 117-9 dec Nantwich 89-5; Warrington 143-9 dec Alsager 101-7

VAUX DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE: Burnmoor 197-7 Boldon 198-5; Whitburn 186 Chester-le-Street 190-7, Seaham Harbour 112 Eppleton 114-3; Felling 222-4 South Shields 159-3; Gateshead Fell 194-5 Philadelphia 73-5 (match abandoned); Sunderland 190 Durham CA 30-0 (match abandoned)

LEES BREWERY LANCASHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Sale Moor 167 Glossop 168-7, Woodhouses 163-6 Denton St Law 150-7 (match abandoned).

WILLIAM YOUNGER NORTH LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Havenlg 112-8 Cleator 113-5

NORTH STAFFS & SOUTH CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Bignall End 152-5 v Longton; Crewe 142-6 Little Stoke 31-5; Leek 125-3 Stafford 18-1; Elworth 175-3 Stone 81-0 (all matches abandoned)

VAUX NORTHERN LEAGUE: Darwen 212-7 Preston 50; Fleetwood 177-5 Chorley 181-3, Kendal 77 Lancaster 79-1, Leyland Dal 144-9 Leyland 61-8.

PRIORY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY LEAGUE: Alnwick 162-9 Percy Main 161-7; Backworth 103 South North 104-1, Benwell 117 Tynedale 118-3; County Club 188-8 Ashington 189-8; Morpeth 156-9 Benwell Hill 178-4; Blyth 218-3 Tynemouth 222-7

VAUX RIBBLESDALE LEAGUE: Barnoldswick 24-0 v Blackburn Northern (match abandoned); Clitheroe 152-7 Whalley 91-6, Great Harwood 161-5 Earby 150-9; Padiham 103-8 Oswaldtwistle 108-1; Edenfield 171-9 Read 175-5; Ribblesdale W 123 Cherry Tree 124-7

APS TWO COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Colchester 155 Witham 156-7

VAUX TYNESIDE SENIOR LEAGUE: Burnopfield 237-6 Whickham 216-5; Linz 253-7 Annfield Plain 215; South Moor 294-3 Greenside 209-9; Sacriston 212 Seaton Burn 214-6; Shotley Bridge 214-5 Swalwell 156-9

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Rotherham 210-5 Cleethorpes 42-2 (match abandoned)

☐ *All other matches rained off*

FENCING

NORTHGATE SPORT CENTRE, Ipswich: Women's épée World Cup: 1, H Kiraly (Hun); 2, T Chappe (Sp), 3 equal, A Hormay (Hun) and M Macielewska (Pol); 5, G Salay (Hun) British: 15, C Brown.

GOLF

ST ANDREWS: International match: Foursomes: Scotland 2 France 2 (Scotland names first). M Brooks (Carluke) and B Howard (Cochrane Castle) lost to C Ravetto and O David 2 holes. G Rankin (Palacerigg) and C Watson (East Renfrewshire) lost to F Illouz and B Nicolay 3 and 2. R Beames (Wick) and E Forbas (Nairn) bt F Stoiker and I Goroneskoul 1 hole. A Forsyth (Ralston) and S Mackenzie (West Linton) bt J-M de Polo and G Havret 3 and 2). Singles: Scotland 7 France 1 (Scotland names first: Brooks bt Ravetto 3 and 1; Rankin halved with David, Howard bt Illouz 2 and 1; Forsyth bt Nicolay 7 and 6; Watson bt Goroneskoul 3 and 2, Mackenzie halved with Havret; Forbes bt De Polo 6 and 4, Beames bt Stoiker 1 hole). Match position: Scotland 9 France 3.

ASHBURNHAM: Carmarthenshire Open Championship: Leading final scores: 146: Y Taylor (Brynhill) 77, 69; M Pilkington (Pwllheli) 76, 70 (Taylor wins on better second-round score). 148: D Harris (Shrewsbury) 74, 74 149: S Jones (Cardiff) 77, 72; N Edwards (Whitchurch) 74, 75. 150: C Rees (Ashburnham) 77, 73

NORTH CAROLINA: Greater Greensboro Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated) 202: B Faxon 67, 70, 65; T Kite 67, 68, 67, 200; R Damron 66, 72, 67; E Els (SA) 69, 69, 67, J Kelly 68, 69, 68; K Triplett 67, 68, 69, 206; F Stankowski 69, 68, 69; 207: B Andrade 72, 68, 67; N Ozaki (Japan) 68, 71, 68; G Day 72, 66, 69, F Nobilo (NZ) 69, 69, 69; R Medlate 72, 66, 69; R Cochran 72, 66, 69; M Standly 68, 68, 71 208: H Sasaki (Japan) 69, 70, 69, J Adams 71, 67, 70, 209: L Clements 70, 72, 67; C Rose 70, 71, 68; B Gelberger 70, 70, 69, P Michelson 71, 68, 70; D Hart 69, 69, 71; V Singh (Fiji) 69, 69, 71, D Barron 70, 67, 72 Other scores: 211: *P Tataurangi (NZ) 71, 69, 71. 213: J Parnevik (Swe) 72, 70, 71; S Appleby (Aus) 70, 72, 71; S Elkington (Aus) 67, 71, 75 214: H Kase (Japan) 73, 70, 71 215: A Lyle (GB) 66, 77, 72; R Alarcon (Mex) 73, 69, 73*

INA, Japan: Kirin Open: Leading final scores (Japan unless stated) 278: Kim Jong-Duk (Kor) 69, 73, 68, 68. 279: B Watts (US) 69, 70, 71, 69; T Ozaki 70, 73, 71, 65; R Miyase 70, 71, 68, 70. 280: R Todd (Can) 71, 72, 67, 70; E Fryatt (GB) 68, 71, 71, 70; C Franco (Par) 71, 68, 69, 72; Z Moo (Burma) 67, 69, 69, 75, H Tanaka 70, 69, 69, 72. 281: Z Lianwei (China) 70, 71, 70, 70. 282: M Tschetter (US) 71, 73, 65, 73; M Ozaki 72, 72, 71, 67; S Higashi 69, 71, 74, 68.

JAKARTA: Indonesian Open: Leading final scores: 280: C Parry (Aus) 67, 70, 74, 69. 282: D Terblanche (SA) 69, 70, 73, 70. 283: G Norquist (US) 71, 69, 69, 74. 285: N Kawahara (Japan) 69, 70, 73, 73. 286: J Senior (Aus) 71, 70, 70, 75. 287: C Devers (US) 72, 74, 71, 70; A Singh (India) 73, 73, 68, 73; C Wi (S Kor) 70, 72, 70, 75. 288: M Calcavecchia (US) 70, 73, 75, 69. P Markasaeng (Thai) 76, 71, 72, 69; Mo Joong-Kyung (Kor) 72, 72, 72, 72

GYMNASTICS

GUILDFORD: International junior women's tournament: 1, Great Britain 168.737pts, 2, Holland 166.618; 3, Switzerland 157.174. Individual positions: 1, L Mason (GB) 35.262. 2, M Wilcox (GB) 34.85

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Semi-finals: Reading 10 St Albans 1; Surbiton 1 Teddington 3

MILTON KEYNES: Inter-League play-offs: Pool A: City of Portsmouth 0 Chelmsford 3, Loughborough Students 4 Robinsons 1. City of Portsmouth 1 Loughborough Students 2: Chelmsford 4 Robinsons 1 Final positions: 1, Chelmsford 9pts; 2, Loughborough Students 6, 3, City of Portsmouth 3; 4, Robinsons 0 Pool B: Edgbaston 1 Hampstead and Westminster 3, Norton 3 Anchorians 2, Edgbaston 2 Norton 1; Hampstead and Westminster 3 Anchorians 1 Final positions: 1, Hampstead and Westminster 9pts, 2, Edgbaston 6; 3, Norton 3; 4, Anchorians 0 (Chelmsford and Hampstead and Westminster qualify for National League)

HARARE: Junior Africa Cup: Egypt 1 South Africa 0 (Egypt qualify for Junior World Cup)

WAKEFIELD: Yorkshire Cup: Final: Doncaster 4 Sheffield Bankers 1

DUBLIN: Nissan Irish Cup: Final: Lisnagarvey 4 Pembroke W 3

MEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Dronheh 3 Wednesbury 3; Lichfield 7 Aldridge 0

CHIGWELL: Women's county championship: Finals: Group A: Surrey 1 Northamptonshire 0; Dorset 3 Humberside 2; Northamptonshire 4 Humberside 5; Surrey 2 Dorset 4; Humberside 4 Surrey 5; Dorset 3 Northamptonshire 2. Final positions: 1, Dorset 9pts; 2, Surrey 6; 3, Humberside 3 Group B: Lancashire 0 Gloucestershire 2; Staffordshire 2 Kent 2, Gloucestershire 3 Kent 0; Lancashire 2 Staffordshire 3; Kent 1 Lancashire 0; Staffordshire 1 Gloucestershire 1 Final positions: 1, Gloucestershire 7pts; 2, Staffordshire 5; 3, Kent 4 Final: Gloucestershire 4 Dorset 0.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Exeter CVH 2 White Eagles 11; Olton II 3 Harborne 2.

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: At Helsinki: Pool A: Czech Republic 2 Germany 1, Finland 6 France 1; Russia 2 Slovakia 2. At Turku: Pool B: Canada 7 Norway 0; Sweden 5 Italy 3; United States 6 Latvia 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup: Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New Jersey 4 Montreal 0 (New Jersey win best-of-seven series 4-1). Philadelphia 6 Pittsburgh 3 (Philadelphia win 4-1) Western Conference: Colorado 6 Chicago 3 (Colorado win 4-2).

LACROSSE

TOKYO: Women's World Cup: Round robin: Australia 6 United States 4; England 10 Canada 4; Wales 9 Japan 6.

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheadle Hulme 8 Boardman and Eccles 8, Mellor 11 Stockport 11. Postponed: Moorthorpe v Heaton Mersey

MOTORCYCLING

OULTON PARK: British superbike championship (15 laps, 41 83miles) Third round: 1, C Walker (Yamaha) 24mn 05 915sec; 2, J Reynolds (Ducati) 24 06 129, 3, T Rymer (Kawasaki) 24 12.542, 4, S Emmett (Ducati) 24 19 041, 5, N Mackenzie (Yamaha) 24 20 336; 6, M Llewellyn (Suzuki) 24.28.306s Fastest lap: Reynolds 1 35 301s 104 59mph Fourth round: 1, Reynolds 24.03.863, 2, Rymer 24 06 245; 3, Mackenzie 24 08 154, 4, S Hislop Reve (Ducati) 24 09.968, 5, Emmett 24 20 506, 6, Llewellyn 24 21 408 Fastest lap: Mackenzie 1 34 603 Leading championship positions: 1, Mackenzie 77pts; 2, Reynolds 65, 3, Rymer 59, Teams: 1, Yamaha 135pts, 2, Ducati 94, 3, Kawasaki 82 Manufacturers: 1, Yamaha 91; 2, Ducati 81, 3, Kawasaki 59. Shell Advance Supersport 600 Championship: Second round (18 laps): 1, I Simpson (V and M Honda) 30mn 26.878sec; 2, D Heal (V and M Honda) 30:34 138; 3, S Plater (Cabb Honda) 30:35 499 Fastest lap: P McCallen (Honda) 1mn 39 779sec Championship positions: 1, Heal 31pts; 2, McCallen 25; 3, Simpson 25

NETBALL

NATIONAL INTER-COUNTY LEAGUE: Promotions and relegations: First division: Champions: Bedfordshire Runners-up: Essex Metropolitan Relegated: Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire. Second division: Promoted: Kent and Derbyshire Relegated: West Yorkshire and Lancashire. Third division: Promoted: North Durham and Suffolk Relegated: South Durham/Cleveland and North Hampshire Fourth division: Promoted: Greater Manchester and Northamptonshire Relegated: Norfolk and Worcestershire Fifth division: Promoted: South Staffordshire and Staffordshire Central. Relegated: East Devon and North Buckinghamshire Sixth division: Promoted: Berkshire and Herefordshire

REAL TENNIS

SEACOURT, Hayling Island: British women's open championship: Semi-finals: P Lumley bt K Allen 6-1, 6-0; S Haswell bt K Leeming (Aus) 6-2, 6-1 Final: Lumley bt Haswell 6-3, 6-0

SCHOOLS SPORT

Football

ENGLISH CROYDON CUP: Final: Croydon 0 Worthing 3 London Pear Trophy: Final: Redbridge 3 North Kent 2. Lancashire Cup: Final: Rossendale 5 South Ribble 0. Cornithian Shield: Semi-final: Islington 2 South London 0 Miller Trophy: Semi-final: Vale of White Horse 0 East Berkshire 2 Goodhand Trophy: Semi-final: Nottingham 3 Worksop 1 Kay Trophy: Semi-final: Tower Hamlets 4 Islington 1 Cheshire Cup: Semi-final: Kirkby Knowsley 0 Sefton 1 Inter-association: Oldham 1 Leeds 2

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Edinburgh 45 Newcastle 45 Berwick 49 Glasgow 41.
POSTPONED: Elite League: Bradford v Ipswich; Eastbourne v Belle Vue, Coventry v Swindon Premier League Cup: Stoke v Edinburgh; Arena Essex v Oxford, Skegness v Reading

SQUASH

ODENSE: European team championships: Men: Semi-finals: England 4 Finland 0 (England names first) M Cairns bt V Sistonan 9-3, 9-3, 9-0; S Meades bt J Kyttanen 9-7, 9-1, 9-5, N Taylor bt M Monto 9-5, 9-2, 9-4 D Meddings bt T Tuomman 9-2, 9-3, 9-6), Wales 3 France 1 (Wales names first. A Gough bt C Montagner 9-3, 9-4, 9-4, D Evans bt T Lincou 9-4, 9-10, 9-2, 10-9; G Davies bt S Galdi 9-2, 9-7, 9-7, M Benjamin lost to J Arcucci 9-3, 3-9, 4-9, 9-4, 2-9) Final: England 4 Wales 0 (M Cairns bt A Gough 9-3, 8-10 3-9 9-4, 9-6, P Johnson bt D Evans 9-5, 9-5, 9-5; S Meads bt G Davies 10-8, 9-5, 9-7; N Taylor bt M Benjamin 9-1, 9-1, 9-0) Lower-place play-offs: Denmark 3 Spain 1; Sweden 4 Ireland 0 (Sweden names first A Thoren bt D Ryan 9-4, 9-10, 9-0, 9-5, D Forslund bt S Richardson 9-5, 9-3, 9-0; F Johnson bt M Collins 9-5, 9-3, 9-3; J Thun bt P Foster 4-9 9-3, 9-2, 9-6), Switzerland 2 Scotland 2 (Switzerland win 8-6 on games countback, Switzerland names first M Eggenberger lost to P Nicol 4-9, 0-9, 4-9; L Harms lost to S Cowie 5-9, 9-3, 9-3, 4-9, 5-9; R Donatsch bt A Thomson 9-1, 9-5, 9-2 Y del Tonno bt D Heath 9-7, 9-5, 9-1), Germany 3 Holland 1 Austria 2 Belgium 2 (Austria won 7-6 on games countback), Norway 4 Luxembourg 0, Portugal 4 Czech Republic 0, Hungary 4 Iceland 0, Scotland 2 Holland 2 (Scotland won 112-96 on points countback. Scotland names first: Nicol bt L Burt 9-0, 9-0, 7-9, 9-2; Cowie lost to E Smit 9-4, 9-4 2-9, 0-9, 9-10 Thomson bt E van der Pluym 9-7, 2-9 9-4, 9-1; P O'Hara lost to T Berden 7-9, 9-10 4-9), Ireland 3 Spain 1 (Ireland names first Ryan bt A Codina 9-4, 9-3 9-0; Richardson bt S Mira 9-4, 6-10, 3-9, 9-7, 9-0, Collins bt O Salva 5-9, 9-1, 9-7, 9-2, Foster lost to F Linan 9-4, 5-9, 2-9, 3-9) Germany 3 Switzerland 1; Sweden 4 Denmark 0 Finland 3 France 1, Sweden 3 Germany 1; Switzerland 4 Denmark 0, Scotland 3 Ireland 1 (Scotland names first P Nicol bt D Ryan 9-4, 9-10, 9-7, 9-1 S Cowie bt S Richardson 4-9, 9-7, 10-9, 9-5, A Thomson bt M Collins 9-0, 9-2, 9-3) D Heath lost to C Collins 9-5, 7-9, 7-9, 9-1) Spain 2 Holland 2 (Spain won 8-7 on games countback) Italy 4 Belgium 0 Austria 3 Greece 1 Norway 3 Portugal 1; Czech Republic 3 Luxembourg 1; Hungary 4 Iceland 0 Final positions: 1, England, 2, Wales 3, Finland, 4, France, 5, Sweden, 6, Germany; 7, Switzerland 8, Denmark; 9, Scotland; 10, Ireland; 11, Spain; 12, Holland; 13, Italy 14, Belgium 15, Austria; 16, Greece; 17, Norway; 18, Portugal 19, Czech Republic; 20, Luxembourg; 21, Hungary; 22, Iceland Women: Final: England 3 Germany 0 (England names first S Wright bt S Schöne 9-6, 9-6, 9-5; L Charman bt S Baum 9-5, 9-3, 9-2. J Martin bt K Benere 9-0, 9-1, 9-11. Lower-place play-offs: France 2 Finland 1; Belgium 2 Sweden 1; Denmark 2 Switzerland 1 Spain 2 Ireland 1 (Spain names first N Menau bt A McArdle 2-9, 2-9, 9-7, 9-3, 9-7; E Sado bt M Perry 9-4, 0-9, 7-9, 9-1, 9-3, L Sans lost to L Finnegan 9-1, 4-9 7-9, 5-9); Italy 2 Austria 1, Norway 2 Wales 1 (Norway names first E Bikka bt K Hogan 10-8, 9-7, 9-3, P Nolahl bt J Wells 9-5, 1-9, 9-4, 7-9, 9-7; K Helgeland lost to H Dawkins 4-9, 9-4, 9-5, 5-9, 0-9) Final positions: 1, England, 2, Germany; 3, Holland; 4, Scotland, 5, France; 6, Finland, 7, Belgium; 8, Sweden, 9, Denmark; 10, Switzerland, 11, Spain, 12, Ireland, 13, Italy; 14, Austria, 15, Norway; 16, Wales, 17, Hungary.

TABLE TENNIS

MANCHESTER: World championship: Selected results: Men: Category one: Group A: China 3 Taiwan 0; Yugoslavia 3 Croatia 1; Italy 3 Slovenia 0, China 3 Yugoslavia 1, Italy 3 Taiwan 1 Slovenia 3 Croatia 2; China 3 Croatia 0; Taiwan 3 Slovenia 0 Group B: Sweden 3 Belarus 2; Austria 3 Slovakia 0; Belgium 3 Romania 0; Belarus 3 Austria 1; Belgium 3 Sweden 2; Slovakia 3 Romania 2, Austria 3 Belgium 0; Sweden 3 Romania 2 Group C: Germany 3 Denmark 0; South Korea 3 Poland 0, Holland 3 Hong Kong 0, South Korea 3 Hong Kong 0, Poland 3 Denmark 0; Germany 3 South Korea 0, Poland 3 Hong Kong 0, Holland 3 Denmark 2, Poland 3 Germany 2; South Korea 3 Holland 0 Group D: England 3 Russia 1; Japan 3 Hungary 0; Japan 3 England 2; France 3 Russia 1; Hungary 3 Czech Republic 1; England 3 Hungary 1; Czech Republic 3 Russia 2, Japan 3 France 2, France 3 England 1 Category two: Group G: Ireland 3 Argentina 1, Turkey 3 Ireland 1; Iran 3 Ireland 2 Group K: Moldova 3 Guernsey, 0, Guernsey 3 Malta 0 Group L: Scotland 3 Aruba 0, Scotland wo Trinidad and Tobago Group M: Mauritius 3 Jersey 0 Group P: Wales 3 Barbados 1, Wales 3 Estonia 1, Wales 3 Mexico 0 Group Q: Cyprus 3 Isle of Man 0 Group R: Panama 3 Jersey 0 Second stage: Group H: Scotland 3 Togo 0 Women: Category one: Group A: China 3 Japan 1; Russia 3 Canada 0; Belgium 3 Australia 2, China 3 Belgium 0; Japan 3 Russia 0; Canada 3 Australia 1 Group B: Ukraine 3 England 1; Lithuania 3 Armenia 0, South Korea 3 Hungary 1; Hungary 3 England 0; South Korea 3 Lithuania 0; Ukraine 3 Armenia 0 Group C: Italy 3 Taiwan 2 Germany 3 Hong Kong 2, North Korea 3 United States 0; North Korea 3 Hong Kong 0; Italy 3 United States 1; Germany 3 Taiwan 1 Group D: Holland 3 Slovakia 0, France 3 Bulgaria 1; Romania 3 Sweden 2, Romania 3 France 0, Slovakia 3 Bulgaria 0; Sweden 3 Holland 2 Category two: Group J: Isle of Man wo Tanzania; Isle of Man wo Albania. Group K: Scotland 3 Lebanon 0 Group L: Ireland wo Trinidad and Tobago; Ireland wo Nepal Group M: Guernsey 3 Uganda 0 Group P: Portugal 3 Guernsey 0; Iceland 3 Guernsey 0. Group S: Vietnam 3 Isle of Man 0; Isle of Man wo Nepal Second stage: Category C3: Czech Republic 3 Wales 0

TENNIS

MONACO: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: A Corretja (Sp) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-4, 6-4, M Rios (Chile) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-4, 7-6 Final: Rios bt Corretja 6-4, 6-3, 6-3

ORLANDO, Florida: Men's tournament:

Quarter-finals: C Woodruff (US) bt A O'Brien (US) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, G Stafford (SA) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-3, 6-4, J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4; M Chang (US) bt B Black (Zim) 7-5, 6-3 Semi-finals: Chang bt Stoltenberg 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Stafford bt Woodruff 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

BUDAPEST: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: A Coetzer (SA) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-7, 6-1, 6-0; S Appelmans (Bel) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-4. Final: Coetzer bt Appelmans 6-1, 6-3.

JAKARTA: Women's tournament: Second round: Wang Shi-Ting (Taiwan) bt L Andriyani (Indo) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; Y Yoshida (Japan) bt J Chi (US) 7-6, 6-3; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt N Kilimuta (Japan) 6-0, 6-4; Kim Eun-Ha (S Kor) bt Y Hosoki (Japan) 6-2, 6-1; R Grande (It) bt L Nemcikova (Cz) 6-4, 6-0; N Feber (Bel) bt H Inoue (Japan) 6-4, 7-8; N Miyagi (Japan) bt R Hiraki (Japan) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt K-A Guse (Aus) 6-3, 6-0. Quarter-finals: Yoshida bt Wang 6-4, 3-2 ret, Grande wo Feber; Dechaume-Balleret bt Kim 6-4, 6-2; Sawamatsu bt Miyagi 7-5, 6-1 Semi-finals: Yoshida bt Dechaume-Balleret 3-6, 7-6, 6-1; Sawamatsu bt Grande 7-6, 3-6, 6-1 Final: Sawamatsu bt Yoshida 6-3, 6-2.

BOURNEMOUTH: Satellite tournament: Men: Quarter-finals: A Strambini (Switz) bt N Weal (GB) 7-6, 6-4; R Lavergne (Fr) bt J Chauvin (Fr) 6-0, 6-4; R Gilbert (Fr) bt J Delgado (GB) 6-7, 6-4, 2-1 ret; A Belobradic (Aus) bt L Milligan (GB) 6-1, 7-5. Semi-finals: Lavergne bt Strambini 3-6, 6-1, 7-6; Gilbert bt Milligan 7-5, 6-4. Final: Gilbert bt Lavergne 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 Women: Semi-finals: J Ward (GB) bt S-A Siddall (GB) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; J Pullin (GB) bt N Tissen (Holl) 6-2, 6-2. Final: Pullin bt Ward 6-0, 6-3.

RANKINGS: Men: 1, P Sampras (US) 5,118 pts; 2, T Muster (Austria) 3,702; 3, M Chang (US) 3,607; 4, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3,147; 5, R Krajicek (Holl) 2,839, 6, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 2,710; 7, T Enqvist (Swe) 2,176; 8, C Moya (Sp) 2,156; 9, A Costa (Sp) 2,140; 10, M Rios (Chile) 1,977, 11, W Ferreira (SA) 1,935; 12, B Becker (Ger) 1,883, 13, F Mantilla (Sp) 1,709, 14, T Martin (US) 1,673; 15, T Henman (GB) 1,611, 16, A Berasategui (Sp) 1,532; 17, S Edberg (Swe) 1,510, 18, A Corretja (Sp) 1,494; 19, M Rosset (Switz) 1,444; 20, S Bruguera (Sp) 1,426 Women: 1, M Hingis (Switz); 2, S Graf (Ger); 3, M Seles (US), 4, J Novotna (Cz); 5, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp); 6, C Martinez (Sp), 7, L Davenport (US); 8, A Huber (Ger); 9, I Majoli (Cro); 10, I Spirlea (Rom); 11, K Habsudova (Slovakia); 12, A Coetzer (SA); 13, M J Fernandez (US); 14, B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl); 15, M Pierce (Fr).

TRIATHLON

AUCKLAND: ITU World Cup: Men: 1, M Stewart (Aus) 1hr 49mn 13sec; 2, C McCormack (Aus) 1:49.16; 3, H Carter (NZ) 1 49.22; 4, D Gaag (It) 1:49.22; 5, S Read (Aus) 1:49.44 Women: 1, E Carney (Aus) 2hr 02min 16sec; 2, N Andronceus (Aus) 2:02.31; 3, M Ashton (Aus) 2:03.30; 4, J Rose (NZ) 2:04 02; 5, C Hoog (Fr) 2:04 06

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Warwick 3 Whitefield 2 (15-12, 15-11, 8-15, 11-15, 15-11); Crofton 1 Liverpool 3 (9-15, 15-10, 7-15, 11-15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Oldham	29	Halifax	30

Oldham Bears: Tries: Crompton, Faimalo, Goodwin, Maloney, Munro Goals: Maloney 3. Dropped goals: Davidson, Goodwin, Maloney Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Bouveng 2, Chester, Moana, Turiagi Goals: Pearson 5. Att: 4,236

St Helens	42	Castleford	18

St Helens: Tries: Hammond 3, Newlove 2, Martyn, Prescott Goals: Goulding 7 Castleford Tigers: Tries: Middleton, Orr, Vowles Goals: Orr 2 Att: 12,329 *(at Anfield)*

Warrington	37	Paris	34

Warrington Wolves: Tries: Henare, Hough, Mann, Roper, Tatupu, Vagana Goals: Briers 6. Dropped goal: Briers Paris Saint-Germain: Tries: Martin 2, Olejnik 2, Bergman, Chamorin, O'Donnell Goals: Robinson 3 Att: 4,576.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Salford Reds 14 Wigan Warriors 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	8	7	0	1	259	109	14
* Bradford	7	7	0	0	225	126	14
Salford	8	6	0	2	149	155	12
Halifax	9	5	1	3	213	187	11
* Leeds	7	5	0	2	161	132	10
* London	7	4	1	2	208	133	9
Wigan	8	4	0	4	159	151	8
Warrington	8	4	0	4	196	272	8
* Sheffield	7	2	0	5	140	153	4
Paris	8	1	0	7	148	217	2
Oldham	8	1	0	7	164	249	2
Castleford	9	0	0	9	115	253	0

** not including last night's matches*

First division

Featherstone	42	Widnes	10

Featherstone Rovers: Tries: Molloy 2, Chapman, Fallins, Hughes, Price, Strange. Goals: Fox 7 Widnes Vikings: Tries: Bloem, Waring Goals: Long. Att: 1,991

Huddersfield	50	Workington	34

Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Schofield 3, Cheetham, Coventry, Hanger, King, Richards, Sturm, Weston Goals: Weston 5 Workington Town: Tries: Brown 2, Currier 2, Campbell, Rodan. Goals: Bellwarte 4, J Smith Att: 2,668

Wakefield	22	Keighley	42

Wakefield Trinity: Tries: Banquet, Gregg, Southernwood Goals: Davis 5 Keighley Cougars: Tries: Critchley 3, Ellis 3, Ramshaw, Whataarau Goals: Irving 5 Att: 2,221

Whitehaven	24	Hull KR	20

Whitehaven Warriors: Tries: Ruddle, Quirk, Smith, Wilson Goals: Hetherington 4 Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries: P Fletcher 2, Chamberlain, Goulbourne Goals: D Hutchinson, Smith. Att: 1,306

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Dewsbury Rams 24 Swinton Lions 26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	9	8	1	0	257	83	17
Huddersfield	9	8	0	1	290	134	16
Wakefield	9	5	1	3	189	190	11
Whitehaven	9	5	1	3	173	160	11
Keighley	9	4	1	4	222	203	9
Dewsbury	9	4	0	5	160	203	8
Featherstone	9	3	1	5	179	181	7
Hull KR	10	3	1	6	198	207	7
Swinton	9	3	0	6	136	228	6
Workington	9	2	0	7	168	225	4
Widnes	9	2	0	7	114	280	4

Second division

Barrow	32	Lancashire Lynx	30

Barrow Braves: Tries: Kerr 2, Carter, Shaw Slater Goals: Marwood 6 Lancashire Lynx: Tries: Finney 2, Briscoe, Byrne, Taylor, Wearing Goals: S Smith 3. Att: 722

Bramley	16	Carlisle	22

Bramley: Tries: A Gibbons, Greasser, D Gibbons. Goals: Pickles 2. Carlisle Border Raiders: Tries: Lynch 2, Menzies, Richardson. Goals: Richardson 3 Att: 450

Hunslet	44	Doncaster	6

Hunslet Hawks: Tries: Baker 3, Coult, Coyle, Petch, Rushton, Southernwood. Goals: Walker 6. Doncaster Dragons. Try: Robinson Goal: Senior Att: 1,202.

Leigh	34	York	14

Leigh

THE TIMES

READ

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CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (millions)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,504.10	Allied Domecq	432½	+ 6	6.8	13.1
287.80	Bulmer (HP)	545	– 12½	9.1	16.2
35.60	Burn Stewart	90		7.1	14.9
129.90	Glenmorangie A	955	– 40	1.6	26.0
10,696.50	Grand Met	508	+ 8	3.9	16.4
9,694.50	Guinness†	513½		3.9	14.6
444.60	Highland Dist	333½	– 9	3.1	15.5
254.40	Matthew Clark	267½	– 1½	10.4	13.7
9.86	Morrison W	90½	– 1	6.4	13.2
5,353.10	SA Breweries	1818½		1.9	

BANKS

12,764.80	ABN-AMRO	4209½	+153½	2.7	17.5
11,498.20	Abbey Nat†	816½	+ 18	4.8	14.5
3,224.10	Alliance & Lec	554		3.7	13.5
2,947.40	Allied Irish	436	– ½	4.1	...
5,748.70	Aus New Z	385½	+ ½	4.9	
26,621.40	Bank America	6578½	+ 40½		
4,219.40	Bank Scotland	752½	+ 27	3.0	10.8
16,501.70	Barclays†	1086½	+ 78½	3.6	11.0
3,109.20	Bk of Ireland	646½	+ ½	3.2	14.6
31,084.40	Citicorp	6421½	– 37½		
6,742.40	Commercial‡	1668½	+ 34½	2.6	...
20,613.30	Dk Ichi Kan Y	660	– 9½	0.6	...
16,047.40	Deutsche Bk	3709½	+ 39½	2.0	...
230.70	Espirito Santo	1031½	+143½	3.3	14.5
19,325.70	Fuji Bank Y	667	– 53½	0.6	
13,618.10	HSBC†	1563½	+ 25½	3.5	13.5
26,906.60	HSBC Hld	1304	+ 19	3.4	13.0
493.20	Irish Permt	572½	+ 1½	2.6	...
29,883.50	Lloyds TSB†	557	+ 35	3.0	18.0
12,057.10	Nat Aust Bk	8167	+ 32½	5.0	11.0
12,148.10	Nat West†	710	+ 31½	5.1	10.7
4,579.70	Nyl Bk Scot	556½	+ 29	4.2	12.4
9,011.30	Royal Scot†	913	+ 21	2.0	16.4
18,061.10	Wells Fargo	£1644		1.9	
6,334.90	Westpac	332½	+ 11½	4.8	10.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

7,043.70	Bass	795	– ½	3.3	15.7
17.10	Bk Sc Bs Bth A	52	+ ½	4.2	14.3
36.40	Burtonwood Brw	175	– 2½	4.0	15.7
280.10	City Centre Rest	134	– 6	2.4	
2,184.00	Compass Gp	697	+ 19½	1.6	17.0
58.00	Eldridge P 'A'	270½	+ 1	2.4	17.1
66.20	Fuller Sm 'A'	480		2.4	16.0
1,507.00	Greenall Gp	510	– 3½	3.6	16.8
421.40	Greene King	696½		2.9	17.3
29.30	Grosvenor Inns	206	+ 12½	2.5	16.4
46.80	Groups Chez Gers	250	– 8½	1.5	24.5
96.90	Hardy Haron	284½	+ 6	4.7	12.9
81.60	Hall J	2812½		2.1	
51.70	Inn Business	537½	– 2½	2.8	
229.50	Mansfield	352½		2.2	16.2
256.60	Marston Thmp	283½	– 1½	3.3	10.6
180.90	Morland	560	– 17½	2.8	14.8
45.60	Old Eng Pub	254	+ 17½	0.7	79.9
4.45	Pizzaexpress	37½			
453.40	PizzaExpress	689	+ 39½	0.5	45.0
34.20	Ramsdens (H)	367½	– 30	1.7	14.7
268.40	Regent Inns	231	+ 4½	1.0	30.7
4,146.30	Scot & Newc	677½	+ 27½	3.7	20.4
389.60	Spirit Group	374	+ 2½	4.8	13.0
452.20	Wetherspoon JDt	1162½	+ 5	1.0	15.9
3,725.50	Whitbread	763½	– 3½	3.7	15.5
449.90	Wolverhampton D	5457½	+ 4	3.2	14.7
201.40	Yates Bros	637½	– 5	1.0	31.3
16.50	Young 'A'	637½		9.0	25.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

6.58	AIF Inds	28½			
77.50	Abbey	200		3.5	20.5
124.90	Allen	315½	+ 10½	2.8	19.3
393.80	Amec†	139	+ 2	3.6	
140.50	Amoryt	468	+ 6	2.1	21.7
86.40	Andrews Sykes	585	+ 12½	5.8	10.0
380.20	Ashtead	375½	+ 5	1.4	24.9
20.20	Averardet	46½		2.7	12.3
4.04	Bailey (Benj) Con	36½		4.3	7.8
48.30	Band	95	+ ½	3.2	21.0
31.20	Barcon	57½	– 2½	2.6	33.0
576.30	Barratt Devel	248½	– 9½	4.4	13.2
481.90	Beazer†	171½	– 3	4.4	13.2
358.60	Bellway	463½	– 1	3.0	17.3
9.05	Bellwinch	30			
699.00	Bestway Gp	695½	+ 2	1.5	17.4
22.40	Bett Bros	149½	– ½	4.7	4.5
74.20	Bovi (Henry)	275		3.7	
30.40	Brandon Hirst	83½	– ½	3.8	11.9
5.50	Brdenna Gp	29½	– ½	3.5	31.2
6.66	Br Bldg & Eng	99½	– 2		
350.30	Brwrt	1240½	– 2½	5.1	17.4
48.10	CALA	111½		3.9	14.6
5.25	Campbell & Arm	7			
8.79	Clarke Th	71½	– 2	8.5	12.6
95.30	Crestam†	46			
63.40	Countryside	83	+ ½	3.4	24.5
93.80	Crest Nicholson	935½	+ ½	3.3	19.7
16.30	Diseart	65½		1.1	
17.20	Evo Group	175		6.0	
19.10	Eaffield	21½	+ 2	5.8	23.5
94.60	Glesson (MJ)	930		2.2	16.7
4.45	Green (Ernest)	57½		6.5	18.2
84.60	Hanstock Cons	202	+ 13	2.6	
425.00	Hawden-Stuart	1535½	+ 1	2.6	20.0
4.62	Howard Hdgs	17½		5.7	18.7
233.30	Jarvis	271	+ 22½	0.7	
129.60	Kellerf	2311½	+ 10	2.5	16.6
66.20	Kier Gp	715½		3.5	12.9
170.00	Laing (J)	369½	+ 34	3.2	
51.00	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	127	+ 7½	6.3	
5.47	Lovell (YJ)	134	+ 2½		
49.30	Maunders (J)	198½		3.7	14.4
119.50	McAlpine (A)†	1625½	+ 3½	5.4	16.3
131.40	McCarthy & S	1325½	+ 15½	2.3	15.7
15.30	Mckinney	65			
64.40	Morgan Sindall	193½	– 1	2.7	14.7
184.90	Morrison Cons	275½	+ 1	2.1	21.3
229.10	Mowlem (JT)	330	+ 3½	4.9	14.2
430.70	Persimmon†	2421½	+ 5	4.9	16.0
23.10	Pochins	111		2.8	11.6
187.80	Prowting	138		3.4	45.8
36.10	Rane Ind	159	+ 1½		16.8
354.90	Ransomes	169	+ 2½	2.7	16.2
31.20	Sheriff Hdgs	279		3.3	15.8
3.60	Sisnco	54½		10.0	
47.80	Spandex	327½		1.2	16.7
39.20	Stein Hall	83½	– 2½	2.8	
29.00	Tay Homes†	1330½	– 1½	6.7	20.9
756.80	Taylor Woodrw†	1919½	+ ½	2.4	16.8
241.70	Tilbury Douglas†	715	+ 70	4.0	18.5
17.80	Try Group	25½			15.3
31.20	Vibroplant	67½	– ½	7.5	
88.90	Wilkinsons	1327½	+ 4	4.2	
29.70	Ward Hdgs	58½		5.1	6.3
223.70	Westbury	248		3.1	21.7
53.00	Wiggins	9½			40.1
324.40	Wilson (C)	163½	– 2	3.7	17.7
508.90	Wilson Bowden	540½	+ 2	2.5	18.5
301.60	Wimpey (G)	137½	– 2	5.0	43.4

BUILDING MATERIALS

1,682.20	BPB	329	+ ½	3.8	15.9
38.70	Baggeridge Brk	94½	– 2	4.1	23.2
277.60	Baggeridge	48½	+ 2	5.2	20.7
9.58	Blockleys	38½			
3,082.10	Blue Circle†	416½	+ 1½	4.0	17.7
74.90	Brendon PLC†	87½	+ 2	6.9	
29.40	Br Dredging†	133½	– 2½	5.5	10.9
2,205.50	CRH	6139½	– 1½		
3.57	Caledonian Rfrs†	59½	+ 10	6.3	6.4
93.70	Capel	172½	+ 1	4.3	
1,510.00	Caradon	251	– 5½	4.7	12.4
229.50	Caradon pf	127½	– 2½	7.3	
5.20	Chesham pf	51½	+ ½	9.8	8.5
3.89	Dyson (J&J)	235½	– 2½	2.7	13.9
17.70	Dyson 'A	129	+ ½	4.8	7.6
6.62	Elmstone	31			
57.30	Epwin	263	– 2	4.4	16.6
29.80	Fiske	138½	– 11	0.9	12.0
1.54	Gibbs & Dandy†	90½	+ 1½	5.2	8.7
197.70	Graham Sand†	141½	+ 6	5.0	29.3
69.60	Halstead (JH)	350	– 5	4.1	13.3
1,959.30	Hanson	3007½	– 2	3.2	
661.00	Heywarth†	270	+ 2½	6.9	15.3
12.30	Hewdon	75½	+ 1	4.3	15.1
249.20	Heyw Wtrp†	240	+ 4	7.0	10.3
329.80	Ibstock†	70	+ ½	3.6	
55.10	Johnson	515	– 2½	4.0	
21.40	Lifestyle†	75½	– 1	8.0	12.9
423.20	Marley†	125	– 4	5.0	13.2
183.20	Marshalls	131	+ ½	5.0	14.1
555.00	Mayne Int	456	+ 12½	3.3	38.9
227.40	Newman Tnks	173		5.3	
135.50	Norcros	77½	– 3	1.6	
15.80	Phoenix Timber	22½		1.7	51.0
1,186.60	Pilkington	1145	– 4	11.5	9.3
396.00	Ponyport	345½	– 2	1.6	20.1
2,476.00	RMC Gpt	956	+ 11½	3.5	14.0
1,843.60	Redland	354	+ 14½	6.1	16.9
14.60	Ronbri	91½	+ ½	3.3	9.1
48.70	Rotherodt	101	+ 3½	7.5	
717.20	Rugby Group†	111½	+ 2½	4.0	18.9
25.30	Ruzzoli (AV)	104½	+ 2	3.4	
313.90	SIG†	328	+ 1	2.7	15.9
4.84	SWP	24½			
50.40	Sharpe & Fisher†	23½		3.1	17.5
65.80	Spring Ram	14½	+ 1		
105.50	Steetley Hdgs†	170½	– 2½	6.1	
1,165.60	Tarmact	125½	+ 2½	6.1	5.5
13.50	Tilon	20	– 2	5.1	11.3
496.10	Travis Perkins†	477½	– 16	2.6	19.4
	Ward	42½		3.7	13.0
2,803.10	Wellstead	433½	– 1½	3.7	16.2

CHEMICALS

459.50	Albright & Wilson	193	– 7½	5.4	11.6
852.60	Allied Colloids	124½		2.9	22.3
20.80	Amber Ind	137½		5.6	10.8
57.50	Amberley Gp	94½		2.0	18.6
20.70	Anglo Chi	90			9.0
15,103.63	BASF Dfd	2431½	+ 28½	2.6	
4,435.30	BOC	914½	+ 7	4.0	15.8
359.30	BTP	273½	– 5½	5.2	14.4
18,025.70	Bayer DM50	2487½	+ 16½	2.4	
61.50	Rent Chems†	91	+ 1	3.4	10.6
472.00	Br Vita†	213½	– 6	4.8	12.8
133.60	Brunner Mond	175½	– 1	6.0	9.9
89.10	Cassing (W)	305		3.5	14.9
89.60	Cts Technology†	184		1.0	19.5
1,317.70	Courtaulds	1324	– 11	6.2	15.8
396.20	Croda†	2931	– 21	4.5	12.3
50.00	Deeflex	367½	– 7½	3.4	12.6
263.10	Elks & Everard	296		4.0	13.8
31.40	Euro Colour	69½	– 9½	4.0	13.7
0.77	Gibbons	83½		10.5	6.8
175.80	Hickson	71½	+ 4½		17.5
14,229.10	Hoechst	2418½	+ 103½	2.1	
180.10	Holliday Chem	152½	– 6	4.3	14.6
5,100.10	ICI	1102½	– 5	5.7	31.6
326.30	Inspect	188½	– 7	4.2	10.2
465.10	Kalon†	191	+ 5	5.0	21.4
1,296.00	Laporte†	667½	– 16	4.5	14.2
66.80	Marden†	167½	– 2½	8.6	16.3
25.20	Marston	58		3.9	7.4
6.75	Micheldvr	33	– ½	3.1	17.9
78.80	Porvair	267½	+ 1	2.3	28.3
498.00	Scapa	307½	– 7	4.1	11.3
41.40	Sellotape Spnk	37½	+ ½	4.3	9.8
12,009.00	Tokyo Chem	1373½	+ 16½	0.5	23.9
53.60	Victrolene Rt	672½	– 15	4.7	14.7
97.30	Yorks Grpt	212½	– 30	5.4	
372.70	Yule Catsrt	365½	– 8	3.1	16.1

DISTRIBUTORS

58.10	Acton Cp Spts	180½	– 14½	8.7	20.6
13.80	Adam & Harvey	320		8.0	5.3
3.83	Alexandrs†	9½		1.3	
35.30	Applevard†	53	– 2	11.1	
7.88	Ass Br Eng	3		2.5	
139.70	BSS Group	510		5.8	14.9
4.86	Barclay Pmer	13½	– ½		
2.17	Bogod 'A'	37½		2.6	10.5
300.30	Brammer†	661½	– 4	3.1	
8.00	Bridgend Gp	20	– 2	1.5	
27.50	Bhl Fibreglss	115½	– ½	4.3	
9.95	Cathay	30½		4.9	12.5
53.20	Cir Group	170½	– 1	2.9	16.5
33.80	Cleveleid†	126	– 3	3.6	
31.20	Charles Sidney	75		7.3	
23.40	Cook (DC)	94		5.2	6.4
24.00	Dag Midland	104		9.3	
21.50	Dominion Bl	121½	– 1	2.8	13.7
153.40	Diploma	346	– 1½	5.2	12.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

605.10	Autoglass	385	+ 2½	1.7	
337.20	Ascot Hldgs	234	– 3½	2.2	
16,586.30	Broken Hill	6364½	+ 39½	2.9	19.0
16,102.80	BTR†	551		1.4	19.7
16,240.90	Bunzl	533½	– 7½	6.2	11.1
294.80	Bisley (J)	358		5.0	11.9
1,468.90	Brierley Inv	56		8.6	9.9
767.40	Charter†	681	+ 10	4.6	11.3
1,496.40	Cookson†	718	+ 2½	6.3	13.7
29.70	Cosalt	208	+ 3½	6.3	8.9
264.30	DCC	914½	+ 6½	2.7	12.5
136.70	Grampian Hdg	132½	+ 1	8.4	12.6
1,020.50	Hanson Cnsltd	722	+ 9½	11.0	12.6
4,554.50	Jardine Matth	4500½	+ 34	2.2	16.6
611.90	TI Group	372	+ 13	2.6	16.2
3,184.70	Tomkins	269½	+ ½	4.5	13.3
36.90	Unidare	190		9.6	
116.90	Wardle Storeys†	84	+ 2½	5.1	16.1
666.60	Wassall	542½	– 6	3.2	14.7
63.30	Whitecroft	143	– ½	4.4	11.4
1,851.40	Williams Hdg	318	+ 5½	6.1	13.1

ELECTRICITY

1,803.00	Br Energy PP	131	– 2	7.5	...
1,329.30	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
2,560.70	Energy Group	491½	– 9½	5.3	9.5
3,709.70	Midland Grid	321½	+ ½	6.2	9.5
6,369.10	National Power	525½	+ ½	5.6	10.0
546.50	Nthn Ireland	369½	+ ½	6.3	6.1
4,118.20	PowerGen	646½	+ ½	4.9	7.5
1,446.00	Hydro-Elect	372½	– 7½	6.5	9.5
4,388.20	Scttshpowerd Ffs	370	– 7½	5.4	11.2
1,979.70	Southern Elec	414	– 19½	7.1	9.0
1,474.10	Yorkshire Elec	926½		5.8	12.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

96.80	Acal	481½		2.3	15.8
202.30	Acorn Comp	224½	– 1		
248.10	Admiralt	392½	+ 10	0.7	34.4
257.70	Alphameric	218	– 3	1.6	
139.90	Aptis Gp	91	– 1		
39.80	Arlen	40		3.8	9.2
461.30	Astect	149½	– 2½	1.6	17.3
196.60	Aston	546½	+ 4	0.9	17.4
1,080.00	Atalla	227	– 7	0.8	
13.40	Beales Hunter	126		10.8	6.0
108.50	Black	350	– 2½	5.0	9.4
725.60	Bowthorpe†	372½	– 6½	3.4	14.9
3.02	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	11½		4.9	4.7
24.60	CML Micro	154½	+ 4	4.9	26.2
31.50	Channel Hdgs	34½	– ½	5.0	13.3
76.50	Chimnic	31½	– ½	2.0	16.2
13.40	Clayhithe	65½		6.8	7.7
96.50	Crtchley	610		2.3	17.2
1,049.00	Dadco Ba Sys	462½	+ 22½	2.6	19.9
529.50	Datsy†	347½	– 16½	5.8	15.2
85.40	Domino	337½	+ 3½	4.1	15.7
131.40	Dowding Mills†	86½	+ 3½	4.4	15.7
86.00	Elcom	276½	+ 11½	3.6	30.8
2,705.40	Electrolux 'B'	3735½	– 71½	3.6	
27.00	Everest	25½	+ ½	2.0	19.3
17,481.80	Ericsson 'B'	1990½	– 3½	1.0	
34.40	Eurocopy	69½		4.7	10.7
401.80	Exotherm	533½	– 26½	3.8	16.5
139.70	Filtronic Com	316	– 20	0.2	
123.00	Forward Gp	224		1.2	15.8
9.66	Forward Tech	26	– 1	3.8	
10,223.20	GEC	398½	– 1½	3.2	16.8
99.90	Gooshy†	150		5.5	
79.90	Ind Control†	146	+ ½	3.1	15.8
7.54	Intelek	16		6.2	16.0
10.80	Kalon	113½		2.8	8.8
14.70	Kewill	51½	– 2½	2.9	17.2
161.40	Marconi Sw	311	+ 3½	2.4	18.0
19.50	Microvitec	24½		4.5	
449.80	Mitel	425			
189.60	Oxford Inst	381½	– 3½	2.2	13.6
168.30	Pace Micro	178½	– 1½	3.8	8.7
9.20	Pacer Technol	116½	+ 1		3.4
47.20	Park	39	+ 1½	11.5	6.3
10,572.20	Philips Lmp ev	3125	+240½		16
7.32	Plasmec	152½	– 2		5.0
34.90	Plessey	160½		0.3	22.8
112.20	Prosecut	224½	– 4	3.2	17.9
18.10	Prosertech	44½	+ 1½	3.3	10.3
303.30	Psion†	406	– 4	0.7	27.9
696.00	Racal Elect	245	+ 1½	3.1	18.2
24.80	Redstone	139½	+ 16	3.6	21.2
260.60	Renishaw	358½		2.7	16.5
8.50	Sirs	2½			
121.40	Stabrook	216	– 1	3.8	12.8
72.80	SDX Bus Sys	205	– ½	1.3	28.3
40.60	Servomex	364	– 2	2.7	18.3
92.50	Shearwtrs	63	– 4	2.6	
5,841.90	TDK	4440½	+210½	0.6	
15.30	Tbl	70	– 1½	6.0	7.4
204.60	TLG	112½	+ 2	4.8	12.5
6.18	Tadpole Tech†	23½			
47.40	Telspec†	51½	– ½	3.5	34.3
83.20	Telspec†	262½	+ 17½		
17.80	Thorpe FW†	136½	– 1	3.9	11.5
3.03	Total Systems	30		6.2	8.9
69.10	Tunstall	216		3.0	12.0
156.50	Vanity	55	– ½	1.8	
63.80	Vinci	139½	– 3	5.2	9.5
118.40	Volex	423		6.0	12.5
2.74	Waterbourne	12			
52.30	Wheelcoe	172½		1.8	49.8

ENGINEERING

81.20	AIM	560		1.6	19.8
193.60	APV†	85	+ 4	5.2	68.5
32.50	ASW	27			
115.30	Alumasc	386	– ½	3.5	12.4
82.60	Alvis	145	+ 1	2.6	16.2
64.00	Ash & Lacyt	1275	+ 1½	5.2	9.0
66.80	Atlas Equip	642½	+ 5	4.4	
10.60	Avrshire Metal	105½		5.9	
39.80	BBA†	333½	– 10	2.6	17.9
1,049.00	BMB†	1172½	– ½	7.4	9.3
139.70	Babcock	852½	– 5½	2.9	
4.81	Bailey (CH)	9½			6.3
172.90	Baynes (Charles)†	111		3.3	13.2
17.90	Beckford	38½	– 1½	3.5	13.5
17.10	Bencon Grop	30		4.4	17.1
192.30	Bestobell Ind	126	+ ½	4.5	21.3
1.15	Bilton†	72		9.2	43.2
598.00	Bodycote	747½	– 12½	1.2	
13.20	Bodn Inds	41½			
21.10	Boosey	39½		4.1	10.2
89.70	Bridon	108	– ½	5.3	17.0
1,347.00	Brit Aerospace†	1347½	– 1	1.4	19.7
2,960.30	Br Steel	145½	– 3	8.6	5.5
8.55	Brooke Tool	11½		3.3	7.2
19.00	Brunel	15½		4.8	11.6
143.60	Bulmer (H)	120	+ 1	8.7	37.4
134.80	Cambr Eng	220		2.3	19.3
108.10	Castings	252½	– 1	2.2	16.0
9.95	Chamberlin Hll	135		7.0	9.4
118	Chrysalis	118	– 12½	10.0	4.9
45.70	Clyde Blowers	146½	– 1½	6.8	12.6
591.90	Cobham	638½	– 28	2.2	19.4
3.00	Colvin (A)	375	– 10	2.4	
1,131.00	Compass	1		6.0	10.7
125.80	Diesel Rsvrs	189½	– 9½	4.2	12.4
181.20	EIS	344½	– 6½	4.8	12.4
17	Elco	17		1.8	
25.80	Elliott (B)	55½		3.7	8.7
74.00	Enginmnt	1161½	– ½	1.5	17.5
999.90	FKI	1787½	– 8½	3.9	14.5
129.70	Fenner	150½	– 7	3.3	19.9
1.68	Ferrum	6½			
39.90	Firth Hdgs	459½	– 2½		16.1
131.00	Fluid Recon	525½		1.9	23.6
41.80	GEI Int	113		5.0	10.8
5.66	Gates Eng	145	– 1½	6.5	5.5
266	Gyrosest	625.50	– 23½	6.2	11.2
29.60	Gyrotone	75	– 1½	11.2	4.7
130.50	Hadco Mnfctn	1145½	– 1	3.1	13.3
23.60	Hadleigh	315	+ 5	2.5	15.8
137.80	Hall Engr	256½	+ 7½	3.7	10.1
491.30	Halma	1825½	+ 7½	1.9	19.8
40.60	Hammrsn Ind	74	+ ½	3.9	27.8
5.98	Hay (Maurice)	36½			
6.04	Hendersn†	37½	+ 2	3.2	7.0
27.60	Hill & Smith	70	– 6½	11.1	12.2
22.50	Hopkinsons	29		5.6	
20.80	How Gp	42½	– 1½	4.9	
127	Hunting	127	+ 1½	2.9	16.4
177.20	Hunting†	180	+ 5	4.2	
384	IMI	384	+ 14½	4.5	14.2
507½	Johnson Matth	507½	– 17	3.6	14.6
37½	James Sharman	37½	+ 2	3.3	6.0
457½	Kelsey Ind	457½		6.6	14.8
267½	Lancelt	267½		4.1	11.6
39½	Lindsay (T)	39½		2.5	16.5
74	Lk Inds	74	+ 4	4.1	66.8
159½	Lucas	159½	+ ½	3.8	24.5
73.10	MK Hdgs	73.10		4.3	14.2
5.34	MS Int	5.34		3.8	24.5
99.50	Marg Brown	511½		2.0	15.1
527.30	McKechnie	486½	– 11½	4.7	11.9
250.90	Meggitt	120		4.4	17.1
130.00	Melrose	1187½	+ 3	4.8	15.3
18.00	MetalTech	12			
21.60	Metrpe	145½		3.5	9.5
225.80	Molnlyc†	652½	– 92½	4.2	9.0
1,003.50	Morgan Chlst	4495	– 21½	4.1	15.3
31.30	Morris Ashby	267½	+ 2½	3.6	13.1
8.58	Norcrest	35½		3.3	6.8
17.10	Old Ind	33	+ ½		32.7
541.30	Powerscreen	602½	– 1	2.0	18.2
24.90	Prospect Inds	6¾			
99.50	Quadrnnic	33½	– 7	5.7	10.9
1.78	Quadrant Grp	4¾			
0.95	Radiant Metal	10			
47.10	Ramsdnbtm	34	– 1	4.6	7.5
29.10	Record	73½	– 1	6.8	11.2
156.20	Renold	226½	+ 2	3.9	10.3
19.71	Richards Group†	47			
30.50	Richardson West	84	– 3½	6.3	8.1
9,618.70	Rolls-Royce†	265	+ ½	2.7	19.3
252.10	Rotork†	287½	+ 4	3.5	23.3
114.40	Rubicon	130½	– 2½	5.7	9.3
648.80	SKF 'B'†	1384½	– 71½	3.1	
398.60	Senior Eng	131	– 4	3.7	17.7
95.50	Serfid-Rts	487½	– 12½	1.4	
4,313.80	Siebe	912	– 30	1.9	18.9

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

| | | |

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Stratagem. **Finals:** Alexandra Workwear, Chiroscience Group, Crompton Greaves, EIS Group, Grampian Television, S&U. **Economic statistics:** UK British Bankers' Association end-March mortgage lending, US new home sales (March), EU foreign ministers meet in Strasbourg.

TOMORROW

Interims: Advanced Power Components, Air London International, Fibernet Group, Huntingdon Life Sciences (Q1). **Finals:** Parambe, Ryans Hotels, Sears. **Economic statistics:** UK British Bankers' Association quarterly analysis of bank lending, UK net new consumer credit (March), UK final M4 (March), Tokyo markets closed, French GDP (Q4), US durable goods (March), US employment costs index (Q1).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BAT Industries (Q1). **Finals:** David Brown Group, Grampian Holdings, Oliver Ashworth Group, Shiloh. **Economic statistics:** UK mortgage repossessions (Q1), French unemployment (March), US GDP advance data (Q1), Bundesbank Council meeting.

THURSDAY

Interims: Royal Dutch Petroleum (Q1), Shell Transport & Trading (Q1). **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** UK general election, UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply purchasing managers' index, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Swiss, Finnish, Norwegian and Belgian markets closed.

FRIDAY

Interims: Unilever (Q1). **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** UK April official reserves.

COMPANIES  MICHAEL CLARK

Sears plods along behind the pack

SEARS: The City is hoping that a conclusion will be reached this week to the long-running saga of the sale of its Freemans mail-order business. Littlewoods, the original bidder, dropped out after it discovered that Sears was also having talks with N Brown. Later, N Brown also dropped out of talks after taking a look at the books at Freemans.

Liam Strong, chief executive, is coming under increasing pressure from the institutions to quit. He will need a successful conclusion to the Freemans deal if he is to carry on. Last-minute talks were going on this weekend in an attempt to clinch a deal with Littlewoods.

This is unlikely to detract from the fact that Sears's full-year figures tomorrow will be appalling. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits for the year to January of almost 30 per cent, from £75.4 million to £55 million. The damage to earnings is likely to be even worse with a fall of 44 per cent, from 4.5p to 2.5p.

In January, the group gave an indication of what was to come with its trading statement. This showed like-for-like sales ahead just 1 per cent in the second half, with sales in the run-up to Christmas actually down by half a point.

The worst performance once again came from British Shoe Corporation where like-for-like sales were down 2.8 per cent and were matched by a similar drop in the gross margin. Last year's profit of £15.9 million is likely to be replaced this time round with an £8 million deficit. There have also been signs of a slowdown at Selfridges.

Despite the problems, brokers are confident that the payout will be maintained at 3.95p.



Institutions will tell Liam Strong that the shoe doesn't fit unless he scores a quick success

SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING: Brokers have been taking an increasingly optimistic line about the group's first-quarter figures on Thursday, after better than expected trading news from some of the big US oil companies, including Exxon, Mobil and Pennzoil.

These showed a much-needed pick-up in profits of their downstream operations, in spite of the higher crude price in the early part of the year. This follows a pick-up in oil-related products in the US.

Nevertheless, brokers are still looking for a downturn in net income of 17 per cent from £1.6 billion to £1.35 billion. The setback has been precipitated by a decline in upstream earnings. The mild weather has taken its toll of the group's high-margin European gas sales, offsetting the benefits of dearer oil prices. In contrast, the first quarter of 1996 showed the benefits of high margins in the Far East and low costs.

It is to be hoped that the results will also contain further evidence that the group has started to improve the return on capital and that dividend growth has exceeded market expectations as a result of the strong cash flows.

BAT INDUSTRIES: The company is likely to be pressed for an update on the situation on tobacco litigation in the US and the corporate restructuring that is currently under way when it reports first-quarter figures on Wednesday. It is unlikely in the wake of Friday's annual general meeting that these figures will contain any surprises. Brokers are looking for a modest increase in pre-tax profits of about 7 per cent, from £566 million to £605 million, with earnings per share up 1p, at 11.9p.

The tobacco operation is expected to have benefited from price rises which will boost profit contributions from both Europe and Latin America, although the gains in the US will have been offset by the increased cost of litigation and the sale of some tobacco brands. Small advances are also expected on the financial services side where Allied Dunbar's contribution should reflect the recovery in life assurance sales last year.

The only weak spot is likely to be Farmers, its Californian insurance division, where personal lines insurance rates are likely to be weak reflecting the absence of the earthquake element from old and new home insurance premiums. For the full year NatWest is forecasting a final outcome of £2.77 billion.

UNILEVER: Recent speculation about the disposal of its speciality chemicals division to ICI will take a back seat on Friday, when the group unveils first-quarter figures. David Lang, at Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is forecasting a subdued performance from the Anglo-Dutch food and household products giant.

He is looking for a 5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £530 million and points out that there are two days less than the normal 65-day period during the period under review. This will result in a 3 per cent reduction in sales, cutting potential quarterly growth by almost 4 per cent for a total turnover of £7.9 billion.

The final profits figure has been struck after exceptional costs of £15 million. Currency translations could result in an estimated 7 per cent hit, with earnings down by 5 per cent to 16.2p.

Trading conditions generally remain mixed. Europe is still flat, with consumer confidence weak in both Germany and France. The two countries account for 40 per cent of European turnover. The only exceptions are Britain and Holland. Lang says he will also be watching closely for signs that consumer spending in the US has started to come off the boil.

The warm start to spring and an early Easter should help to reduce seasonal losses from ice cream, while the result from edible fats should be solid. Frozen foods are also expected to improve without the hindrance of last year's provisions totalling £14 million from Birds Eye.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spotlight on IMF reform

THE WORLD's finance ministers — with the exception of Kenneth Clarke who is canvassing in Nottingham — are in Washington this week for the conclusion of the IMF/World Bank Spring get-together. The meetings over the next two days are expected to grapple with the thorny issue of reform of the International Monetary Fund as well as exploring plans to help developing countries. That said, most observers expect any breakthrough agreements to be delayed until autumn.

At home there is little economic data for the markets to get excited about and only a sudden swing in the polls is likely to cause much reaction ahead of Thursday.

Consumer credit figures are due tomorrow, with MMS International, the economic forecasting group, predicting a slight fall in credit growth, from £1.2 billion in February to £1.1 billion. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers index on Thursday is likely to show the pound continuing to take its toll. The data might just give an incoming Chancellor pause for thought before sending the pound even higher with a rate rise.

Abroad, attention will be focused on America, where a raft of data will set the tone for the Fed meeting. On Tuesday, the quarterly employment cost index is expected to show labour cost pressures increasing, with MMS forecasting a rise of 0.9 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent at the end of last year. The first-quarter GDP figures on Wednesday are likely to show economic growth remaining well above trend at 3.8 per cent — although flat on the previous quarter. Further evidence of the tightening labour market is expected in Friday's employment data for April. MMS is forecasting that the number of workers on non-farm payrolls will rise by 200,000, compared with 175,000 in March. Hourly earnings are also expected to rise again, although growth is expected to slow slightly to 0.3 per cent (0.4 per cent the previous month).

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: *Buy* Alfred McAlpine, Soccer Inv, Johnson Matthey, MMS Petroleum, Cosalt; *Sell* Bodycote. **The Sunday Telegraph:** *Buy* Westport, European Motor Holdings, Brammer, Windsor; *Hold* Lopex; *Sell* Scottish & Newcastle. **The Mail on Sunday:** *Buy* Mosaic Inv, Fishers International; *Hold* Glaxo. **The Express on Sunday:** *Buy* Mosaic, Claremont Garments, RTZ; *Sell* ICI.

CrestCo faces first windfall test today

BY ADAM JONES

CREST, the City's new share-settlement system, today faces the first of two vital tests following the Alliance & Leicester demutualisation.

Windfall shares sold on behalf of many of the former building society's 2.2 million members in the first three auctions last week are due for settlement today. Smooth processing is vital to CrestCo, the operating company, which is seeking to end a run of disastrous Stock Exchange flirtations with technology.

Paul Symons, of CrestCo, said that today's settlements should pose no problems since the shares were sold to a relatively small number of institutions: "The total number of additional transactions is a few thousand." This includes early sales in the open market.

Mr Symons said that currently Crest is processing about 120,000 transactions a day, well below the 150,000 it handled at the end last month, indicating that there is enough excess capacity to cope.

However, a bigger test would come a week tomorrow, he said. Faced with investors who wanted to sell shares held in paper certificate form in the open market last week, many brokers have been putting through trades to settle in ten, rather than the usual five, working days. Mr Symons would not say how many trades were expected, but 900,000 investors opted to receive shares in this form.

Before the Alliance & Leicester deals, brokers had complained that share certificate-based trades were taking too long to settle.

CrestCo was open for brokers inquiries on Saturday, the first weekend opening, and was used by 53 companies.

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†Some benefits are subject to a qualifying period

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Legal & General

Time runs out for insurance salesmen

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE days of the sharp insurance salesman, a figure who arouses fear and suspicion in equal measure among customers, could be numbered.

Within years he could be all but replaced by the telephone and other electronic devices to sell simple insurance products such as motor and term life policies, according to a survey to be published this week.

With products becoming streamlined, he will not even be required to dream up new policies to peddle to consumers. Instead, only those who sell to rich clients, or who listen to what customers want, will survive.

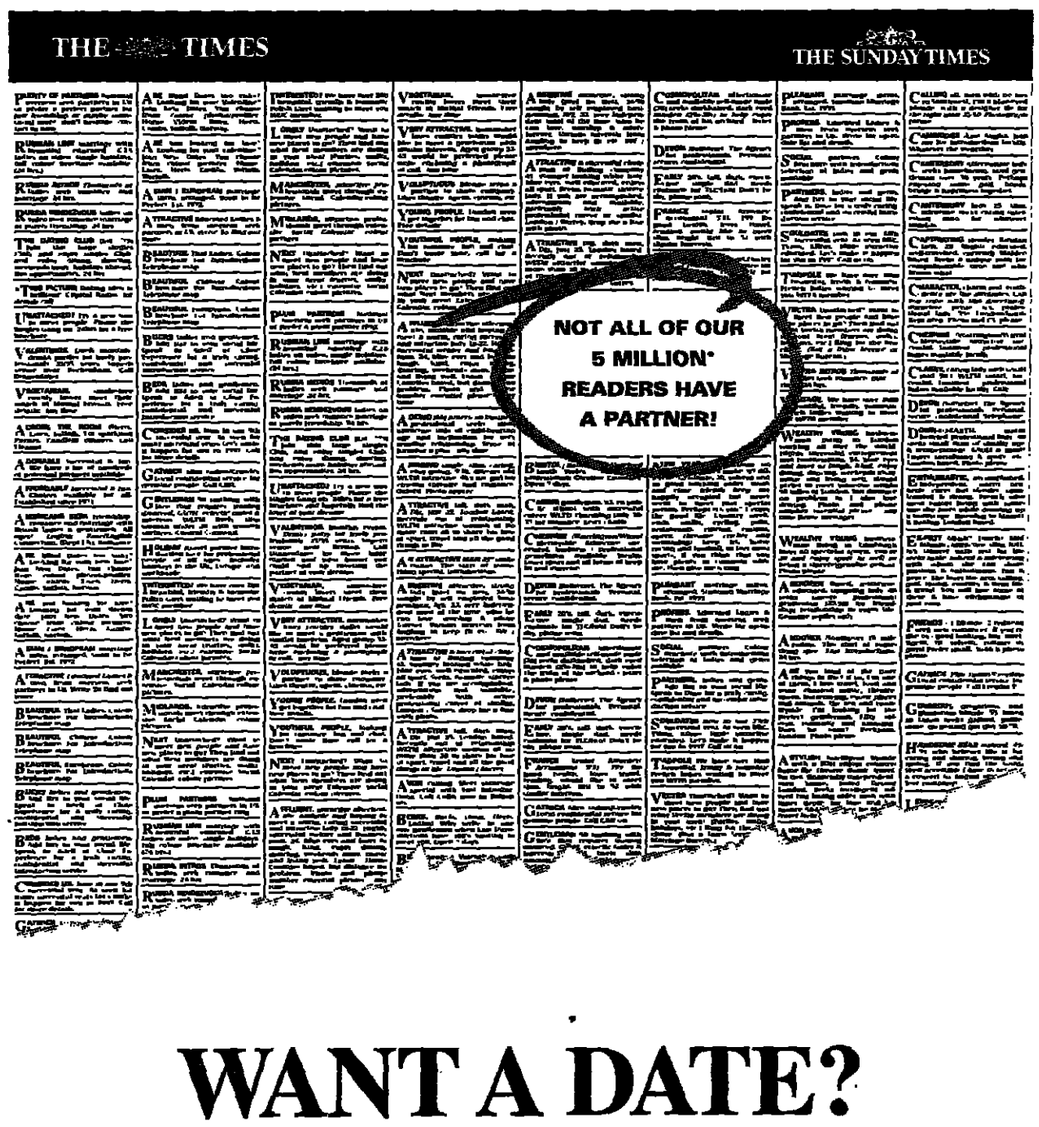
This gloomy outlook for the salesman is painted by the Economist Intelligence Unit's survey of 160 insurance executives from around the globe.

IBM UK, which co-ordinated the questionnaire, said: "Direct interaction with consumers via the Internet and online services will have a dramatic impact on one of the enduring icons of the industry — the insurance salesman."

Alan Kerr, of IBM, said most insurers believed they would need to design far fewer new products and "only the best" among staff would survive.

The EIU also found that insurance executives were keenly aware of encroaching competition from banks and retailers. More than half of the respondents thought their company would grow through a merger or acquisition.

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES



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TIMES CLASSIFIED MEANS SATISFIED

Japanese warn of snubbing anti-euro UK

BY DAVID WATTS

JAPANESE investment in Britain is likely to be cut if there is no decision to join the single currency, a senior Japanese trade official says.

"Japanese businessmen dream of a world where there would be no exchange-rate fluctuation risk," said Noboru Hatakeyama, president of the Japan External Trade Relations Organisation (Jetro). He says he is puzzled by opposition to economic and monetary union in both the Conservative and Labour parties.

"Now the dream is being realised in Europe and, of course, Japanese companies invested here are expecting their dream to come true. Then both of your parties take a negative view," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Emphasising that Jetro had no formal view, he said that, while Britain might gain from having a cheap currency in the initial stages of a single currency, it could later turn sour for British trade. Much would depend on which countries took part initially. If it turned out to be stronger European nations such as Germany, France, Belgium and Holland then the value of the pound could be expected to decline relative to the euro, boosting Britain's trading position.

"But in the long run what will happen? Britain might come under pressure to revalue the currency because non-participation might be seen as a deliberate ploy to keep a cheaper currency. Also, as other countries with weaker economies joined, the value of the euro might go down and then a risk would be realised to investors in the UK. In the short term it might be all right but in the long term Japanese investors would be affected."

It would be difficult to see how Japanese investors could go ahead with their plans while there was such uncertainty, he said. Mr Hatakeyama is only the second senior Japanese industrial figure to go on the record with his views on a single currency after off-the-cuff remarks by Hiroshi Okuda, president of Toyota, earlier this year. He expressed doubts about the viability of future investment if Britain stayed out and was widely believed to be reflecting the car group's corporate view. A subsequent disclaimer only served to underline how accurate his comment had been in the first place.

Earlier this year, Kogaku Inaba, chairman of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was quoted as saying: "Europe should edge slowly to monetary union but, if Britain is outside, Japanese investment policy might be changed a little bit. Britain must be economically consolidated in Europe."

Japanese corporations began to look on Europe as a federated state, for organisational purposes, when the concept was still in its infancy.

Some 250 Japanese firms operate in Britain with a further 100 conducting research and development here. Over the past 45 years some 40 per cent of Japanese investment in Europe has come to Britain.



Naomi Campbell, the model, with Tommy Hilfiger, whose store has helped to boost rents

Fashion's designs on Bond St

THE arrival on Bond Street in London of large stores for the cheaper "diffusion" lines of international designers such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein and Prada is making it one of the hottest areas for retail property in Europe, according to a report (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Rents on Bond Street are rising at more than 10 per cent every year. Its small traditional shops are being knocked together and rebuilt inside to provide the 10,000 to 20,000 sq ft the designers prefer for their more accessible diffusion lines, Hillier Parker, the property company, says in the report on store expansion published today. Russell Schiller, who compiled the report, says Bond Street rents are likely to carry on rising faster than rents elsewhere for at least another year.

The report says it remains to be seen whether the returns on Bond Street "justify the high level of capital outlay and the buoyant rents".

Next Chancellor must act fast to restrain domestic growth

GILT-EDGED

Britain is booming, says the Tories' general election slogan. The problem with booms is that they all too often end in bust. There is a rising probability of this unless the Chancellor, whoever he is after Thursday, acts early to curb economic growth.

Interest rate decisions are complicated at present by the strength of sterling, particularly since UK inflation is very sensitive to movements in the exchange rate. The 20 per cent appreciation in sterling since the beginning of 1996 has already contributed to a fall in food prices of 1.6 per cent over the past year. There is also scope for goods price inflation to improve in coming months, reflecting the recent collapse in core producer output price inflation. These trends alone could reduce underlying retail price inflation to about 2 per cent by the end of the year, well within the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less. If sterling retains its present strength, underlying inflation could easily average 2 per cent during 1998. While the pound remains this strong or, worse, moves higher, it is hard to see any Chancellor displaying much enthusiasm for raising interest rates significantly.

Despite this favourable near-term outlook for inflation, there are mounting longer-term concerns. Notable among these are: the persistent upward creep in service price inflation to a two-year high; the marked tightening observed in the labour market and the associated rise in average earnings growth to 5 per cent; the high level of consumer confidence; rising house price inflation; and rapid monetary growth. Unless the exchange rate has risen sufficiently to bring economic growth back to a trend rate, which seems unlikely, these underlying inflationary pressures will eventually surface.

Even if growth does slow, *there are still inflationary* risks. The current policy mix will slow the economy by hitting the export and manufacturing sectors. In the meantime, interest rates will not be high enough to prevent the service sector and consumer spending from expanding rapidly, putting further upward pressure on average earnings and service sector inflation. The cost will also be a serious deterioration in the balance of payments. At existing exchange rates, the current account could move from balance last year to a deficit of more than 2 per cent of GDP in 1998. At some point the worsening current account deficit will undermine the exchange rate; interest rates may then need to be raised sharply to prevent a marked pick-up in inflation — in effect a mini rerun of the late 1980s experience.

One potential way to avoid such an out-turn would be for Gordon Brown to tighten fiscal policy significantly further in his July Budget if Labour wins on Thursday. However, the scope for personal tax increases seems pretty limited given the commitments Labour has already made. Nor, after last year's sizeable undershoot in the PSBR, could Gordon Brown say that the fiscal situation is much worse than he thought. So the burden of policy tightening seems almost inevitably to continue to rest with monetary policy. In this case, the best hope for a soft landing for the economy is if the current period of sterling strength proves to be short-lived. Interest rates could then be raised sufficiently to curb domestic demand without crushing the export sector.

While this is our central forecast, the longer the pound remains strong the greater the odds of a more pronounced cycle in economic activity over the next two years. There is an increasing threat of unsustainably fast domestic demand growth this year and next leading to a hard landing for the economy, probably in 1999, as the authorities battle to keep inflation down.

This environment poses dilemmas for gilt investors. Lower inflation this year is obviously good for the gilt market, but sustainable gains will be difficult until there is clear evidence that the economy is slowing. *Since tangible evidence of* this may be elusive for much of the year, gilts will probably remain range-bound against German bunds for several more months. With German bunds looking overvalued, ten-year gilt yields are likely to end the year just above 8 per cent.

DAVID WALTON
Goldman Sachs

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02	Malta	0.657	0.602
Austria Sch	20.53	19.03	Netherlds Gld	3.313	3.043
Belgium Fr	60.46	55.96	New Zealand $	2.49	2.27
Canada $	2.378	2.208	Norway Kr	11.99	11.19
Cyprus Cyp£	0.871	0.806	Portugal Esc	291.00	271.00
Denmark Kr	11.15	10.35	S Africa Rd	7.90	7.00
Finland Mkk	8.89	8.21	Spain Pta	245.50	228.50
France Fr	9.82	9.12	Sweden Kr	13.23	12.23
Germany Dm	2.94	2.72	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.31
Greece Dr	461	431	Turkey Lira	224555	210566
Hong Kong $	13.31	12.21	USA $	1.721	1.591
Iceland	127	107			
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02			
Israel Shk	5.80	5.15			
Italy Lira	2920	2720			
Japan Yen	218.30	202.30			

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

KNAPPING
(a) The action of striking or breaking with a snapping sound, particularly the shaping of flints to produse smooth faces, as seen on East Anglian churches, particularly of the Perpendicular period. Also in the preparation of gun-flints. An echoic word of Dutch and Low German origin. As in the case of other words that express an action by an imitation of its sound, the sense diverges in various directions, according as the sound or the action is prominent. In *knack* we think more of the sound, in *knap* of the stroke and its result.
HADDO
(b) The humpback salmon (*Oncorhyncus gorbuscha*), a fish closely allied to the salmon, a native of the waters of Kamschatka, Alaska and Oregon. The *OED* says Amer-Indian with a ?.
JACKMAN
(b) An attendant or retainer kept by a nobleman or landowner, referred by Scott and writers after him to *jack* meaning a short, tight-fitting upper garment. Scott, *The Monastery*, 1820: "The chiefs and landed proprietors retaining in their service what were called jackmen, from the 'jack', or doublet quilted with iron, which they wore as defensive armour."
HONISH
(b) To bring to disgrace or ruin: to dishonour, insult; to destroy, put an end to. From Old French and High German roots. William Langland, *Piers Plowman*, 14th century (spelling partially modernised): "Honish him as an hound, and hoten *him* go hence!"

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ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Adviser system review

THE Stock Exchange is understood to be planning a review of the nominated adviser system to protect companies on the Alternative Investment Market from being stranded when an adviser resigns.

The move by the Exchange, which regulates the junior bourse, comes after Brown Shipley, the merchant bankers, resigned as an adviser leaving clients a month to find a replacement. Under current rules, shares of AIM companies are suspended if they fail to find a replacement within four weeks. If two months elapses the shares are ejected.

There have been calls for a longer notice period and changes are expected shortly.

FRASER NELSON

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	10.70	AFA Systems	107½	− 2	...	...
153½	148½	21.20	AMCO Corp	148½	...	5.2	10.8
422½	170	67.10	AND Int Pub	312½	+ 5	...	...
107½	84½	6.35	Abacus Recruit	102½	+ 2	0.6	19.8
164½	99½	21.90	Access Plus	156½	...	3.9	20.3
100½	39½	7.51	Active Imaging	41	+ ½	...	...
200	200	29.50	A de Grisogono	200	...	3.9	15.0
11¼	8¼	10.30	African Gold	10	+ ⅜	...	21.2
117½	82½	41.00	Airtech	90	+ 2½	...	...
44½	31¼	15.00	Albamarle & Bd	39½	...	0.8	17.0
50½	29½	8.21	Alizyme	47½	...	...	...
111½	101½	3.10	Anglo-Welsh	101½	...	3.0	...
525	455	48.20	Ann St Brewery	502½	...	4.9	11.3
1125	1015	6.64	Ann St Cv Pf	1120	...	7.1	...
127½	65½	85.00	Antenov	116½	− 8	...	...
148½	120½	21.10	Aortech	122½	...	...	...
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	...	1.0	36.6
8	7	1.65	Arron Props	7	− ½	...	51.7
115	30½	47.60	Ashcroft	55	...	...	...
210	130	37.60	Ask Central	195	− 11	0.3	44.5
64½	64½	1.15	Athelney Trust	64½	...	...	...
103½	86½	65.80	Avalon Oil	86½	...	...	...
144½	130½	44.60	BATM Adv Comms	143½	...	2.2	...
191½	130½	62.20	Abernet	167½	+ 8	...	...
69½	50½	2.52	Fletchers	50½	− 5	3.7	6.6
242½	205	5.48	Fist Pubs	232½	...	...	8.1
14½	11½	2.59	First Inter	12¾	...	...	...
200	109½	50.90	Fitness First	185	...	...	72.5
280	160	4.10	Flowerics	160	− 10	2.3	13.1
292½	272½	8.28	Floral St	275	− 2½	0.7	19.6
32½	24½	5.14	FSR Hldgs	24½	− 3	...	...
152½	115½	13.20	Formscan	124½	...	3.3	12.5
110½	88½	9.01	Fountain Forest	102½	− 5	...	15.8
51¼	40	196.10	Freeagent	48½	− 5½	...	...
180½	140½	10.50	Fuelcity Hldgs	175½	...	2.4	12.0
144½	124½	15.30	Future Int Telep	137½	...	...	...
236	129½	16.20	GB Railways	185½	+ 32	...	...
55½	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	52½	...	...	9.9
16	11½	46.60	Gander Hldgs	16	+ 2	...	...
107	82½	71.80	Garland W&B	82½	...	0.5	7.5
102	54½	67.50	Geo Int Media	67½	− 1	...	...
27¼	12	29.70	Gold Mines Sard	23	− ¼	...	...
17	7	7.23	Gold Mic Sard Wts	13½	− ½	...	...
134½	120½	42.20	Goshawk Insce	124½	...	...	...
15¼	14¼	1.80	Grosvenor Ltd	14¾	...	...	...
148	140	32.40	Guiton	143½	− 1½	4.1	10.4
330	265	32.40	HIT Entertain	290	...	0.2	...
8	5¾	2.20	Hanscon	5¾	...	...	...
175	155	11.40	Hardy Underwig	155	− 1½	...	...
77½	54½	3.33	Hat Pin	75½	...	4.5	12.1
315	275	7.12	Headtree	315	...	2.8	16.4
270	245	10.70	Headtree A	265	...	3.3	13.8
160	110	5.32	Hercules Prop	160	...	...	8.7
175	105	11.10	Highams Sys	125	− 5	...	18.3
123	115	147.80	Hiscox	120	...	2.6	...
75	75	1.16	Hurlingham	75	...	...	...
107½	104½	7.10	Hydro-Dynamic	105½	...	1.4	...
172½	138	26.50	IES	153	− 8	1.3	47.5
77½	68½	17.40	Ind Est Health	88	+ ½	1.8	9.8
75½	55½	9.84	Indcat Energy	75	+ ½	...	...
133½	116½	22.30	Indict Radio	128½	...	...	...
179	141½	31.00	Infotrack Ind	161	...	...	...
60½	42½	11.80	Inner Workings	60½	...	...	...
79½	62½	16.00	Intelligent Env	71½	...	...	...
110	42½	32.50	Internet Tech	110	+ 9½	...	...
151½	35½	13.50	Intermute Tele	40½	+ 4	...	...
285	222½	34.30	Intl Greetings	260	...	2.6	14.6
179½	144½	35.60	IOC Intl	145½	+ ½	...	44.9
155½	122½	12.80	Jardinerie Int's	144½	...	...	...
74½	62½	3.04	Jasmin	74½	...	...	12.3
347	290	25.40	Jennings Bros	345	...	2.5	23.7
4¼	3¾	5.53	J Lewis Hford	4	...	...	21.4
62½	52½	8.49	Jordec	52½	...	...	...

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
5¼	2	5.73	Just Group	3½	− ¼	...	...
132½	91½	51.90	KS Biomedix	122½	− 1	...	...
50½	47½	5.46	Kem River	47½	...	...	...
130½	122½	5.30	Lady In Leisure	127½	...	...	...
132½	77½	27.60	La Senza	82½	...	...	...
150	130	25.80	Lancashire En	140	...	3.9	13.3
385	340	23.10	Lawrence	350	...	2.6	16.0
3350	3150	62.50	Lawtey Group	3350	...	2.6	10.2
358	326	58.90	Le Riches Sbs	355	+ 1	5.8	14.9
14	9	0.45	Life Numbers	9	...	...	...
4	2	0.06	Life Numbrs Wts	2	...	...	...
535	480	10.70	Loades	535	...	0.2	50.7
106½	61½	26.00	Lotus Road	65	...	...	...
12¾	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11¾	...	2.7	8.9
75	70	1.88	London Town	75	...	2.7	14.6
67½	37½	11.00	Loox	47½	...	...	...
3¼	1¾	3.03	Lotteryking	1¾	− ½	...	22.4
1	0½	0.09	Lotterykng Wts	0½	− ¼	...	...
88	58	8.96	MMS Petroleum	74	...	...	...
187	147½	33.50	MTL Inst	184	+ 9	3.4	11.7
27½	14½	10.50	Magnora Power	16½	− 1	...	...
290½	247½	32.60	Majestic Wine	255½	− 3	...	11.1
19½	9½	8.40	Manx & O'seas	14	...	2.9	26.7
105	105	2.40	Malinx Hithcare	105	...	8.0	12.1
13¾	10¼	4.23	Mears Group	11¾	− ¼	2.1	11.0
93½	88½	54.10	Megalomedia	92½	...	...	51.9
85½	83¼	0.93	Megalomedia Wts	85	...	...	...
67½	45½	3.45	Mellek	49½	...	6.3	36.5
65	33½	27.00	Memory Corp	42½	− 5	...	...
16½	6¼	4.52	Meteor Tech	6½	− 1	...	...
15	7	0.14	Meteor Tech Wts	7	− 1	...	...
50	46	4.06	Methven's	48	...	...	...
25	20	5.90	Metrodome	24	...	...	...
84½	77½	4.71	Mondas	77½	− 1	...	...
415	280	31.30	Moorepay	413½	+ 2½	1.8	36.2
112	90	7.34	Mountcashel	97	− 1	...	8.5
215	169½	37.40	Mulberry Group	180½	− 3	0.5	28.2
40	10½	3.03	MultiMedia	10¼	− ½	...	...
21	17	1.40	NECA	18	...	3.3	8.2
54½	50½	19.80	NMT	50½	− 4	...	...
72½	67½	1.94	NRP	67½	...	1.9	29.8
285	225	17.10	NWF Grp	225	− 10	5.9	11.6
200	190	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.3	8.2
300	290	7.44	Natl Clark	290	...	3.4	10.5
80½	45½	11.50	Netcall	80½	+ 8	...	...
242	185½	72.40	Network Tech	225	− ½	0.6	...
80½	75½	1.50	Northcomes	77½	...	...	24.0
50½	30½	6.36	Nthn Portm	37½	− 2	...	...
28½	28½	1.71	Northstar Sec	28½	...	...	...
5	3	0.10	Northstar Sec Wts	5	...	...	...
118½	112½	46.20	Nursing Home	116½	+ 1	4.0	26.6
167½	102½	18.80	Omnicare	159	+ 31½	1.3	...
10½	6½	1.85	Onnimedia	7½	− ½	...	...
97½	50½	1.74	On Line	52½	...	...	...
65½	37½	25.30	Oxford Biomedica	44½	+ 5	...	...
3¼	1¼	40.40	Pacific Media	3	...	...	...
69½	45½	26.50	Pan Andean Res	60	+ 7½	...	...
240	220	5.77	Park Ests(Lw)	240	+ 15	4.2	17.4
23¾	13	5.89	Pembertons	21	...	...	...
57½	40½	6.90	Personal No Co	44½	...	...	...
137½	92½	46.20	Philippine Gd	122½	...	...	...
59½	52½	11.70	Pilat Tech	54½	...	...	15.2
138½	113½	25.30	Polymasc Pharms	126½	...	...	...
2¾	1½	3.26	Pordum Foods	1½	...	...	...
1½	1	0.22	Pordum Fds Wts	1	...	...	...
22	13	10.10	Premier Asst Mgmt	18	− 2¼	...	63.4
3	2½	3.15	Prestbury Leis	2½	...	16.0	10.1
590	540	11.10	Preston Mth E	550	...	...	...
104½	103½	16.60	Primary Hlth Pr	103½	...	1.4	...
590	256	84.30	Prism Rail	335	...	...	...
125½	115½	20.70	Q Group	124	+ 8½	...	...
1265	945	255.90	Ranco Egy	1002½	− 2½	0.1	...
110½	77½	11.10	Raphael Zm	102½	...	2.4	11.6
127½	94½	19.90	Recycling Servs	122½	− 2	3.3	...
131½	106½	9.99	Reflec	131½	...	...	...
5¼	4¼	3.32	Revelation Plc	5¼	+ ⅜	...	5.0
45	17½	27.00	Ricoman Insce	41	+ 2	...	...
90½	77½	3.03	Rambler	77½	...	3.0	18.2
2¼	2	3.46	Rushmere Wynne	2¼	...	...	...
0¾	0¾	0.07	Rush Wyn Wts	0¾	...	...	...
155½	152½	17.90	SCI Ent	153½	...	...	...
42½	24½	5.54	SEA Multimedia	24½	...	...	...
72½	62½	6.77	Sanctuary Music	70½	...	...	...
12½	5½	0.80	Scotswood Inds	7½	...	8.3	14.5
57½	44½	8.32	Scott Pickford	55	...	2.0	19.8
60½	42½	13.40	Scott Pride	42½	...	...	...
6	3¼	10.20	Screen	5	...	...	20.6
350	260	12.50	Scruttons	260	− 80	6.4	14.6
80	72	15.60	Selector	80	...	...	...
30½	22½	1.31	Self Sealing	22½	...	...	...
177½	154½	8.53	Shaftbane	177½	...	2.8	14.5
104½	74½	5.06	Shelton (M)	95½	+ 2	5.6	11.6
16	12½	39.50	Silist Energy	15½	...	...	...
233½	208½	29.40	Sinclair Montrs	226½	...	...	...
4¼	2¼	7.13	Sks Bus Serv	3¼	− ¼	1.9	23.0
1½	1	0.29	Sks Bus Wts	1¼	...	...	...
3¼	1¼	10.30	Snakeboard	1½	− ⅛	...	...
105½	102½	10.20	Soccer Inv	102½	...	...	...
84½	80½	5.03	Solid State Sp	80½	...	4.3	13.4
34½	28½	3.36	Soundtrace	33½	...	3.0	19.8
783	619½	182.30	Southern News	756	− 24	3.0	24.5
70½	65½	13.50	Southern Vectis	70½	...	3.4	15.2
260½	173½	28.80	Stalbans	249	+ 41½	0.5	...
635	427½	68.30	Stanford Rook	457½	− 20	...	...
172½	127½	10.30	Stanlor	145½	− 5	...	...
456	410	49.90	Surrey Fr Inns	450	+ 7½	0.7	31.1
153	127	15.10	Sutton Harbour	151	...	1.0	21.5
22	15½	2.06	Syd Integ Rsch	15½	...	...	...
23	18½	4.59	TDS Circuits	21¼	...	...	10.0
97½	67½	13.80	Theo Fennell	85½	+ 5	...	22.0
14	9½	22.90	Thomas Potts	12¾	− ¾	0.5	...
32½	25½	2.10	Tom Hoskins	27½	...	...	...
156½	150½	24.90	Total Office	155	...	3.9	10.0
535	375	29.40	TRACKER Netwk	555	− 40	...	...
120	90	24.80	Tradepoint Fcl	115	− 5	...	...
167	160	4.89	Trinity Care	160	...	3.8	11.5
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	5.5	...
60½	33½	188.80	Trocadero	38	+ 2½	...	...
48	40	3.65	Univent	40	...	...	21.0
397½	357½	7.08	Utd Auctions	397½	+ 10	2.9	...
260	155	16.00	VDC	155	− 8	4.2	12.3
29¾	20¾	74.60	Versailles Grp	29¾	...	0.8	27.5
53	48	91.90	Victory Corp	48½	...	...	...
342½	97½	3.38	Viewinn	112½	...	...	...
240	220	6.91	Voss Net	220	...	...	...
91	51	23.50	Waterfall	91	+ 2	...	24.0
34	27	6.22	Watermark	33	− ¼	3.0	11.7
32	9½	7.05	Wedderburn Secs	25½	− 1½	...	...
17	11¼	0.37	Wedd Secs Wts	10½	− 1½	...	...
7	5	6.58	Weeks Group	5	− ¼	3.2	8.4
115	75	2.90	West 175 Enter	75	...	...	...
£280	£180	14.60	West Bromwich	£200	...	...	30.9
12½	12	6.30	Western Selecta	12	− ½	...	12.9
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	...	...	...
99½	44½	10.60	Westmount Engy	97½	− 2	...	...
89½	80½	3.32	Whitacross	80½	...	...	...
245	205	33.30	Whitland Chelsea	210	− 5	1.4	25.0
70½	45½	7.50	Wchester M Md	64½	− ½	...	...
195	168	42.00	World Telecom	195	+ 3	...	...
135	120	4.26	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.3	19.3
12	10	5.23	Xavier Comp	10	...	...	...
350	260	12.50	Yeomen	132½	...	...	...
80	72	15.60	Zergo	290	...	...	72.8
30½	22½	1.31	Zicox Mining	25½	− 2	...	...
177½	154½	8.53	Shaftbane	177½	...	2.8	14.5

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هكذا من الأصل

Currency fetishism rife on top table



ROGER BOOTLE

TALK about relative price levels across countries and people immediately take you for an economist and pass on. Talk about currencies and the conversation comes alive with issues of national pride and prestige. Yet currencies are simply the medium through which prices in different countries are made comparable. In one sense people imbue them with too much significance, in another with too little.

Last week President Chirac of France said that the euro would be "the equal of the dollar and the yen". The unspoken implication was that this would confer great benefits upon the people of France, Europe and perhaps even the world. But how? One can readily see that the prestige of European politicians and officials would be enhanced by being able to look their American and Japanese equivalents in the eye at international meetings.

According to one view of the world, we owe our prosperity directly to the outcome of such gatherings. People who believe this are suffering from an advanced case of Top Table Mentality. For the rest of us, the prestige of politicians at international meetings is not the decisive issue. What does it amount to? Will it butter any parsnips? Or, as they say across the channel, *où est le boeuf?* Last week another Frenchman, M Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a leading member of the Socialist Party, hinted at one possible answer: The euro must "counterbalance American domination and favour growth and jobs". But are these distinct objectives or is one supposed to follow from the other?

I cannot see much evidence in Britain of jobs lost through "American domination". Maybe it is different in France. But, given the relative performance of the American and European economies over recent years, perhaps France might benefit from rather more American domination.

More generally, there does not seem to be any evidence that the size of a currency's area of circulation has much direct effect upon the standard of living of the people whose government issues it. True, the world's most important currency, the dollar, is issued by a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world, while very poor countries have currencies that are irrelevant internationally. But here the relationship runs from the size and success of the economy to the size and importance of the currency, and not the other way round.

Indeed, some of the richest countries in the world are small, and their currencies are small as well. Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark immediately spring to mind. Sometimes a country's currency can be more important internationally than the weight of its economy would justify. But this is far from an unalloyed blessing, as Britain discovered after the war when sterling's status as a reserve currency greatly complicated the task of managing domestic economic policy. And having an internationally traded currency has several times landed the Swiss in serious economic difficulties as the exchange rate has been driven to ruinously high levels.

Then there is the case of German reunification. This made the mark "bigger". But did it make it better? And did it contribute to increased German living standards? But perhaps I am doing the "Chirac view" an injustice.

Perhaps the importance of being "the equal of the dollar and the yen" stems rather from the links between the size of the currency area and other sources of prosperity. This view could have drawn support from a German Federation of Chemical Industries report, which concluded that a European single currency would "permanently improve" the competitiveness of the industry by ironing out foreign earnings fluctuations. Interestingly, a KPMG study reporting last week came to the opposite conclusion. It said the advent of the euro will cause an even faster shake-out of inefficient capacity in the chemical industry.

One of the most remarkable features of the euro project is its ability to attract supporters whose interests and views of the future are completely opposite. Coping with currency fluctuations must count as one of the lesser problems with which the modern business manager has to deal, thanks to cheap hedging instruments. Meanwhile, the real forces of competition and consolidation will cause problems for industry, single currency or no. The one view imbues the single currency with unrealistic hopes for gain. The other seeks to saddle it with the responsibility for painful adjustment that is necessary anyway.

Both are examples of currency fetishism. Ironically, both views ascribe near-magical properties to currencies while missing the sense in which they can be really important, namely the level at which the exchange rate is fixed and the need, from time to time, for that level to change, as we discovered when we left the Gold Standard in 1931, and again when we left the ERM in 1992.

The task facing the managers of a country's money is both simple and difficult. They are neither the source of a country's wealth nor the fount of its prestige. Their role is simply to avoid making mistakes, either domestically through the creation of inflation or slump, or internationally through the gross misalignment of a country's currency with others.

There is no reason to believe that they are more likely to manage this task well if the currency is "big". They are more likely to manage it *badly*, however, if the institutions and structures are wrong. And then, the bigger the currency, the bigger the mistakes.

Newcastle looks at selling stadium before it is built

BY JASON NISSÉ

NEWCASTLE UNITED may not actually own the new 55,000-seat stadium it is planning to build at Castle Leazes. It may pre-sell it to a property developer or a bank to avoid having to ask shareholders to finance the £65 million project.

The club's shares have been hit by worries that it will launch a rights issue next year to fund the new stadium and are still standing below the flotation price of last month.

However, Mark Corbidge, joint chief executive of Newcastle, said that the club has been approached by a number of City banks with attractive propositions to finance the stadium without draining the club's resources.

Among the plans is a loan or bond package secured on the future gate receipts from Castle Leazes. Instead of a straight interest payment, the banks would take a share of the season ticket, executive box and ticket sales at the stadium. This may be done on a sale-and-leaseback arrangement to take advantage of the £37 million of tax losses on Newcastle's balance sheet.

"What is the benefit of owning your own stadium?" asked Mr Corbidge. "French, Italian and German clubs do not own their stadiums."

However, a sale to a bank or a property company raised the spectre of deals struck in the 1980s that led to problems for leading clubs. Chelsea had a long battle to regain control of its ground at Stamford Bridge after it was sold first to Mahler Estates and then to Cabra Estates. After Cabra collapsed, the freehold passed to Royal Bank of Scotland, which then sold it to Matthew Harding, the club's deputy chairman, whose heirs now own the ground after Mr Harding's death.

Industry experts have also raised concerns about the expense of the Newcastle stadium, which the club has budgeted at £65 million.

In the North East, Middlesbrough built a 30,000-seat stadium at Riverside for a mere £12 million, and Sunderland is putting the finishing touches to its 41,000-seat new ground at Wearmouth, which is costing £16.5 million.

Graham Fryer, of Drivers Jonas, the surveyors, was consulted on both projects. He sees no reason why a top-flight stadium should cost more than £20 million before fitting-out costs and recently said he could not understand why Castle Leazes was costing so much.

According to figures from Newcastle, the basic stadium will cost £40 million, with another £15 million for executive boxes and £10 million for other facilities.

The club hopes to win planning permission soon so that it can complete the stadium in time for the start of the 1999-2000 season.



Brown: 53 per cent ownership

CWC comes to market worth £5bn

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM'S strongest competitor is born today, when the shares of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), a £5 billion phone and multimedia company, begin trading on the London and New York stock exchanges.

CWC, at a stroke, will have 10 per cent of the £21 billion telecommunications market, with 1.1 million phone customers and 600,000 cable-TV customers. It is being formed from the merger of Mercury Communications, which was 80 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron phone companies.

C&W, whose chief executive is Dick Brown, will own about 53 per cent. The North American parent companies of Nynex and Bell CableMedia, which recently bought Videotron, will own 18.5 per cent and 14.2 per cent, respectively. The remaining 14.7 per cent will be in public hands.

Analysts expect CWC to be capitalised at between £4.5 billion and £5.5 billion. The shares will open for trading in London at 2.30pm. With £1.3 billion in initial net debt, a capital expenditures programme of £2.3 billion over the next two years and slim profits, it is unlikely that CWC will pay a dividend until the turn of the century.

CWC's formation could trigger a global telecoms realignment. France Télécom, which is to be privatised after the French election, has held talks aimed at bringing CWC into its Global One alliance with Deutsche Telekom and Sprint. A C&W spokesman said no deal was imminent.

Bout of indigestion expected to disturb restaurants boom

The fashion for eating out may be losing flavour, says **Morag Preston**

Should Sir Terence Conran care to eavesdrop on the idle dinner-table chatter that gives his restaurants their fashionable buzz, he might be less enthusiastic about the opening next month of his eighth 240-seater restaurant. A sector that is bubbling away quite happily at the moment is, according to experts, about to go off the boil — the great British stomach has had its fill of giant eateries.

In the restaurant trade they say that what happens in London happens in the regions six months later. So on Friday, City Centre Restaurants was happily paying £17.75m for Est Est Est, an upmarket chain of Italian diners in the North of England. Familiar brands as well as state-of-the-art restaurants such as Manchester's Mash and Air, are plying their trade outside the capital. In the last decade alone, the number of restaurants in London has grown by 3,000 to 8,000. But now the experts predict that indigestion is about to set in.

"The bubble will burst in nine months," says Richard Shepherd, owner of Langan's Brasserie in Mayfair, not far from Sir Terence's Quaglino's, which opened in 1993. "The eating-out trend will carry on, but customers will become more discerning. People will look for an overall package — the cuddle factor. They don't want to be anonymous; they don't want to come in and go out on a conveyor belt. They want to be made comfortable, and eat a good meal that's value for money."

A chef until recently in his 240-seater restaurant, of which actor Michael Caine is a partner, Shepherd cites his background in the kitchen as his safety net. "There's a difference between being an operator and an entrepreneur. My small amount of business acumen tells me that if the product is right, then the business will follow. The moment accountants start leading the business, then you have a problem," he says.

Chris Bodker, entrepreneur and owner of Avenue on St James's Street, has not come from a catering background. Formerly at BZW, Bodker left the City to set up the successful eatery with the backing of 70 investors; he bought in restaurant expertise and already has plans for at least one new restaurant before the year end. Shepherd remains sceptical: "I know what it has taken out of me and my staff to keep on the tracks over the past 20 years. As soon as a crack appears, I know how to fill it before it starts splitting. With 500 people to look after and no experience, that's harder to do."

In the long term, location is a key factor. Chilis, a vast Tex-Mex restaurant, that opened and closed within the last year despite its success in America, was at the wrong end of Shaftesbury Avenue. Operated by the Restaurant House Group, which has the franchise for Europe, it took a huge capital investment to start the restaurant, which was housed in a refurbished listed building. "People are working longer hours and eating out more than ever. That looks set to continue, but we have a long way to go before we eat out as much as Americans," says Angela Jameson, of *The Caterer & Hotelkeeper*, the trade magazine.



Food for thought in the kitchen for Sir Terence Conran

It is the smaller restaurants that will attract new custom, according to Trevor Watson of the property consultants Davis Coffer Lyons, who refers to "the restaurants graveyard". He says: "The number of large restaurants opening has reached a plateau of late, due to lack of players. The fitting-out costs are huge and fashion plays an important part. If the payback period is only between two and three years, you've got to be seriously profitable. The strongest market is among restaurants between 3,000 and 7,000 sq ft. Five years ago, 5,000 sq ft would have been a very big unit, but that's average now."

It is too late for some small restaurants who have been squeezed out of the high street in the same way as large supermarkets have gobbled up their smaller counterparts. "The first hint of a recession and the small restaurants will be in trouble," says Erica Brown, editorial director of *The Egon Ronay Guides*. "A lot of restaurants have changed hands over the last decade and people are overreaching themselves, borrowing huge amounts of money for fancy decor."

Success also has its downfalls, according to Jameson: "If you budget for so many customers and then that number doubles, many restaurants don't have the investment in the short term to cope."

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6230 (-0.0080)
German mark
2.7977 (-0.0014)
Exchange index
99.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2862.0 (+27.5)
FTSE 100
4369.7 (+59.2)
New York Dow Jones
6738.87 (+35.32)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18612.86 (+260.72)

Flying Colours at the double for BA

BY OLIVER AUGUST

PLANS by British Airways to contract out low-yield routes in a move to become a "virtual airline" have stirred charter operators into action.

Flying Colours, the leisure group that acquired Club 18-30, will double its fleet of aircraft over the next two years to fly BA passengers. The new UK charter carrier is expected to operate a host of routes to the Americas, flying under BA colours in a groundbreaking franchising deal.

Errol Cossey, the Flying Colours chief executive and a pioneer of charter aviation, is committed to leasing another four new Boeing 757s by 1999. The carrier took delivery of its first four Boeings in March.

Flying Colours and BA refuse to comment on plans to franchise out all routes to primary holiday destinations, with BA acting as a holding company, lending its brand name to the flight operator.

The contracting out of flight services is part of BA's £1 billion cost-cutting programme unveiled last year. Earlier this month, BA announced the sale of its Heathrow catering division, which produces 50,000 meals a day.

BA has concluded several franchise agreements on short-haul routes in Europe. The extension of the trim-down exercise to long-haul operations is the next savings measure masterminded by Bob Ayling, the ambitious BA chief executive.

PRUDENTIAL

PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION PLC

TENDER OFFERS BY PRUDENTIAL FOR UP TO 5.4 PER CENT. OF THE ENLARGED SHARE CAPITAL OF ST. JAMES'S PLACE CAPITAL PLC ("SJPC")

On 9 April 1997, the boards of SJPC and J. Rothschild Assurance Holdings plc ("JRAH") announced, inter alia, a Scheme of Arrangement (the "Proposals") whereby SJPC would acquire all of the issued share capital of JRAH which it did not already own. At the same time, Prudential Corporation plc ("Prudential") announced Tender Offers to be made on its behalf by J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited ("Schroders") to acquire up to approximately 30.5 million ordinary shares of 15p each in the capital of SJPC ("SJPC Shares") in order to bring Prudential's interest in SJPC's share capital, as proposed to be increased by the implementation of the Proposals (the "Enlarged SJPC Share Capital"), to 29.9 per cent. Since the announcements, Prudential has acquired 10 million SJPC Shares. Schroders, on Prudential's behalf, is therefore now tendering for the balance of 21.7 million SJPC Shares.

The Tender Offers comprise an offer to acquire by tender existing SJPC Shares (the "SJPC Shareholder Tender Offer") and an offer to acquire by tender SJPC Shares to which shareholders in JRAH as at 25 April 1997 ("JRAH Shareholders") will become entitled upon the Proposals becoming effective (the "JRAH Shareholder Tender Offer").

The JRAH Shareholder Tender Offer is conditional on the Proposals becoming effective in accordance with their terms, and the allotment and issue to JRAH Shareholders of new SJPC Shares.

The Tender Offers are conditional on the receipt of tenders in respect of at least 4.0 million SJPC Shares (representing 1.0% of the Enlarged SJPC Share Capital). If tenders for less than such number of SJPC Shares are received the Tender Offers will be void. Subject to these two conditions, all tenders will be irrevocable.

The Tender Offers are at a fixed price of 130p per SJPC Share. Prudential currently owns, or is deemed to control, approximately 20.4 million SJPC Shares, representing approximately 7.3% of SJPC's present issued ordinary share capital.

The Tender Offer will close at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 12 May 1997 and no tenders received after that time will be accepted. The result of the Tender Offers and, if applicable, the extent to which tenders will be scaled down will be announced by 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 13 May 1997.

The Tender Offers document and its accompanying Form of Tender have been posted to JRAH Shareholders. SJPC shareholders can obtain the Tender Offers document and Form of Tender from the addresses set out below. SJPC shareholders and JRAH Shareholders wishing to tender their SJPC Shares should lodge their duly completed Form(s) of Tender, together (if relevant) with their share certificates and/or other documents of title either by hand only at The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrars Department, New Issues Section, PO Box 633, 5-10 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5ER, or by post or hand to arrive at the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrars' Department, New Issues Section, PO Box 859, Consort House, East Street, Bedminster, Bristol BS99 1XZ no later than 3.00 p.m. on 12 May 1997. Settlement of the consideration due in respect of SJPC Shares tendered and accepted, will be made: (i) to SJPC shareholders, 5 business days after the SJPC Shareholder Tender Offer closes (and, where appropriate, in accordance with the CREST assured payment arrangements); and (ii) to JRAH Shareholders, 5 business days after their SJPC Shares are allotted and issued in accordance with the Proposals.

This is a summary of the terms of the Tender Offers, full details of which are contained in the Tender Offers document dated 28 April 1997.

Copies of the Tender Offers document and Forms of Tender are available from:

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Registrar's Department
New Issues Section
PO Box 859
Consort House, East Street
Bedminster, Bristol BS99 1XZ

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Registrar's Department
New Issues Section
PO Box 633
5-10 Great Tower Street
London EC3R 5ER

J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited
120 Cheapside
London EC2V 6DS

Cazenove & Co
12 Tokenhouse Yard
London EC2R 7AN

ROBECO GROUP

ROBECO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

Robeco NV announce a cash dividend of Fls 3.52 per ordinary share of Fls 10 (Fls 0.352 per sub-share) for the financial year 1996

BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Coupon No. 95 accompanied by the appropriate claim form should be presented to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The dividend will be payable at Fls 3.52 per share, less tax as appropriate, as from 9 May 1997 against surrender of Coupon No. 95.

SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should lodge the special claim form with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR.

Payment of the dividend must be marked on the reverse side of the certificate in accordance with 'Marking Name' procedures.

Other claimants must also complete the special claim form and present this at the above address together with the relevant certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC.

All claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The Record Date is 25 April 1997.

Payment of Fls 0.352 per sub-share will be made by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited on or after 9 May 1997 and will be subject to Marking Name commission and tax, as appropriate.

SHARES HELD BY CF-DEPOSITARIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the case of shares of which the dividend sheets were at the close of business on 25 April 1997 in the custody of a United Kingdom Depositary admitted by the Centrum voor Fondsenadministratie B.V., Amsterdam, this dividend will be paid to such Depositary on 9 May 1997. Such payment will be made through National Westminster Bank PLC, after receipt by them of a duly completed CF Dividend Claim Form.

CONVERSION OF DUTCH CURRENCY

Payment, in respect of bearer share certificates and sub-share certificates, will be made in sterling at the buying rate of exchange current in London at 2.00 p.m. on 1 May 1997 (value 9 May 1997). CF-Shares will also be paid at this rate.

SHAREHOLDERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Approved Agents in the Republic of Ireland may present coupons to the Company's Paying Agents there, Allied Irish Banks PLC, Registrar's and New Issues Department, Bank Centre, PO Box 954, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Claims on sub-share certificates registered in the name of The Munster and Leinster Bank Nominees Limited should be lodged with Allied Irish Banks PLC, Registrar's and New Issues Department, Bank Centre, PO Box 954, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

28 April 1997

ROLINCO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

Rolinco NV announce a cash dividend of Fls 1.84 per ordinary share of Fls 10 (Fls 1.84 per sub-share) for the financial year 1996.

BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Coupon No. 37 accompanied by the appropriate claim form should be presented to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The dividend will be payable at Fls 1.84 per share, less tax as appropriate, as from 9 May 1997 against surrender of Coupon No. 37.

SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should lodge the special claim form with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR

Payment of the dividend must be marked on the reverse side of the certificate in accordance with 'Marking Name' procedures.

Other claimants must also complete the special claim form and present this at the above address together with the relevant certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC.

All claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The Record Date is 25 April 1997.

Payment of Fls 0.184 per sub-share will be made by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited on or after 9 May 1997 and will be subject to Marking Name commission and tax, as appropriate.

SHARES HELD BY CF-DEPOSITARIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the case of shares of which the dividend sheets were at the close of business on 25 April 1997 in the custody of a United Kingdom Depositary admitted by the Centrum voor Fondsenadministratie B.V., Amsterdam, this dividend will be paid to such Depositary on 9 May 1997. Such payment will be made through National Westminster Bank PLC, after receipt by them of a duly completed CF Dividend Claim Form.

CONVERSION OF DUTCH CURRENCY

Payment, in respect of bearer share certificates and sub-share certificates, will be made in sterling at the buying rate of exchange current in London at 2.00 p.m. on 1 May 1997 (Value 9 May 1997). CF-Shares will also be paid at this rate.

SHAREHOLDERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Approved Agents in the Republic of Ireland may present coupons to the Company's Paying Agents there, Allied Irish Banks PLC, Registrar's and New Issues Department, Bank Centre, PO Box 954, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Claims on sub-share certificates registered in the name of The Munster and Leinster Bank Nominees Limited should be lodged with Allied Irish Banks PLC, Registrar's and New Issues Department, Bank Centre, PO Box 954, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

28 April 1997

Poacher turned gamekeeper resorts to shock tactics

Adam Jones on the former hackers who are here to protect you

If a reformed burglar proved how easy it was to break into your offices, *would you employ him as* a security guard? Or would you turn him away, blindly hoping that he was telling the truth about going straight, while praying no one else noticed your vulnerability?

This is the dilemma similar to that faced by computer bosses at companies visited by David Allouch.

Mr Allouch was, by his own account, one of France's leading hackers. He started computing when he was seven, and was employed as a systems administrator when he was just 13.

He adopted the *nom de plume* "Jimbo" for his hacking and, by the age of 17, he claims to have pulled off enough stunts, the exact nature of which he is rather vague about, for the French intelligence services to "encourage" him to emigrate to Israel.

He did so, on condition from the *Israeli authorities that he stayed away from computers* for a year. The order said nothing about computing books, however.

So Mr Allouch spent the time at a religious retreat, *committing texts on Unix*, the programming language, to memory. He emerged, butterfly-like, an even better hacker.

Now 26, the poacher has turned gamekeeper. As the creative heart of Netect, an Israeli company, Mr Allouch is trying to persuade UK companies to buy his skills as a *computer security guard*.

Sales pitches have been known to involve him hacking through existing security before a sceptical executive, brandishing top-secret electronic mail as proof of entry.

And with his colleague, Danny Kaminski, he is trying to get UK insurers to raise the premiums of *companies who do not buy his* product by showing them how vulnerable their clients' computer networks are without it.

With shock tactics like this, many executives' first reaction would be intense hostility. But a powerful doubt would also be present: can you afford to turn them away?

Netect is one of many firms capitalising on the vulnerabilities created by the Internet age. Some will be displaying at a trade exhibition at Olympia in London starting tomorrow. More will be present at a computer fair in Las Vegas next month.

The organisers of Infosecurity 1997, *the London exhibition*, claim the market for information security advice and equipment is now worth an estimated $6 billion, with expectations of $13 billion being reached in the year 2000.



Experts say that Kevin Mitnick, a notorious hacker, knows nothing

Neil Barrett, a former hacker who now works as a security specialist for Bull Information Sytems and has just *published a book called Digital Crime: Policing the Cybernation*, says it is only to be expected that hackers should be at the forefront of this growth.

He says: "Unless you have actually tried to break into computers, I'm not sure you are in a good position to know what to do to stop others."

Mr Barrett says he started hacking when he was a mathematics student as a benign intellectual exercise, born out of a frustration with his university's limited communication links with the rest of the computing world.

He says: "There was no attempt to get things like exam papers."

He says the world of hacking has *moved on to a much more sinister* level since he was last involved, in the early Eighties: "Now I'm advising companies on things much more to do with terrorist use of hacking techniques."

Company computer networks are most likely to be hit by an inside job. External attacks are generally concen*trated on the gateway through which* the network receives electronic mail (e-mail) or accesses the Internet, says Mr Allouch.

He says firewalls, the security systems used to ward off intruders trying to break into computer networks, are often ill-equipped to deal with the latest hacker tricks.

E-mail can be used as a Trojan horse by intruders, who dress up their own subversive package of information with a harmless top and tail.

Hackers also break passwords by repeatedly trying an entire dictionary of recognisable words. When broken, they can establish themselves as a supervisor and wreak havoc. *Girlfriends' and boyfriends' names*, sadly, are still an obvious choice for the hacker.

To counter these sorts of scams, Netect's product sits in the network and constantly simulates every form of attack it knows, selecting from a database of techniques that is updated from several sources over the Internet.

The aim is to keep the company's defences ahead of the latest hacking tools. When a weakness is actually discovered, the software diagnoses a solution.

Netect, headquartered in Tel Aviv, employs about 30 people and is part of a high-tech industry that was boosted by the immigration of hundreds of thousands of highly skilled Russians, not to mention the spin-offs from defence and intelligence research. At its best, Israel can rival Silicon Valley in the US.

Mr Allouch and Mr Kaminski had previously set themselves up as a cut-price Internet service provider in Israel, using a telecommunications infrastructure that had been written off as impractical by others.

Netect is the culmination of consultancy work carried out for companies in Israel. These exposed them to the weaknesses in company computer networks that keep recurring, suggesting that a universal diagnostic solution would make sense.

In the UK, Netect says Cambridge University has its product on trial, which it aims to develop into an industry standard. But the company is really pushing for business from UK financial institutions, both directly and through pressure on their insurance companies.

One financial services company *that has suffered a* very high profile breach of its systems in the past is testing the product anonymously. But wider progress will depend on a leap of faith from nervous clients. Having been made aware of the inherent weaknesses of network computing, e-mail and the Internet, putting their *security needs in the hands of an* unfamiliar foreign company may be the last thing they want to do, however cutting edge the technology.

Who'd be watching the Netectives, after all?

This is where the consultancy operations of bigger firms such as Bull, the French group, have a huge advantage.

However, the general sense of anxiety provoked by a visit from techno-Cassandras such as Netect may be difficult to dispel.

Mr Allouch says successful hacking is not necessarily the result of computing genius. He says Kevin Mitnick, the notorious American who was *jailed for hacking offences after being* arrested by the FBI, was simply using tools downloaded from the Internet: "The guy knows nothing."

In bedrooms across the world, there are 16-year-olds with access to the same information, the computing equivalent of the ladder and jemmy needed for a spot of night*time housebreaking. Can you be* sure they will not hit your offices next?

TELEVISION CHOICE

A tale of DES's daughters



Samantha Bond (BBC1, 10.00pm)

Here and Now
BBC1, 7.30pm

Subtitled *DES's Daughters*, the main item in tonight's human-interest magazine programme is concerned with the effect of a drug given to pregnant women to prevent miscarriage. Prescribed from the 1940s to the 1970s, Stilboastral or DES has had serious consequences for the children of those women. Because there has been little official research, the number affected has never been properly assessed. Anastasia Cooke reports, with an unfortunate tendency to alliterate, on the wonderdrug that has thousands "silently suffering from the side-effects". It is a measure of this programme's rather wide remit that an item like this can sit alongside John Walters's quest to find Britain's champion "quizaholic" (including the pub quizzer who annoys his wife by reading reference books in bed) without anyone blinking an eyelid.

Hot Property
Channel 5, 8.00pm

See this as a light look at the different types of *property available or as a showcase for vendors to* display their wares to a captive audience. This week's armchair buyer is Julia Bennett, a young woman working in TV production (wonder where they found her?) currently living in Camden Town. She "loves the vibe of the place" but needs more room. Presenter Sandy Mitchell shows her three different properties in London: an interior designer's open-plan, acid-coloured turret in Archway, a "period" garden flat in Kentish Town and a Manhattan-style industrial loft in Bermondsey. An expert is then called in to point out the good and bad bits after which Julia is asked to guess the prices. Mitchell warns us that property buying is a serious business and never to rely on the information in the show. A rather unnecessary caveat given that there is none. Harmless tosh.

Bramwell
ITV 9.00pm

The problems of the working-class poor are given the night off in this episode of Lucy Gannon's leg-of-mutton-dressed medical drama. Instead, the love lives of Eleanor (Jemma Redgrave) and her father Robert (David Calder) are the main focus of attention. Eleanor has a fleeting fling with fiancé Finn and Robert goes off for a hunting weekend in wealthy widow Alice Costigan's country seat. How fortunate for Alice, then, that she does not have to send up the cry "is there a doctor in the house?" when her baby nephew falls ill. She is practically swimming in the medical profession. Not only does she have Robert, she also has as her guest the eminent physician Dr Aubrey Savier (Tim Woodward) who is Robert's rival for her affections. One of them advocates surgery, the other a non-invasive procedure. Which one will Alice choose?

Breakout
BBC1, 10.00pm (Scotland, 11.30pm)

Warning! Science can seriously damage your *health. If this isn't the main message* of this eco-thriller, it is certainly its subtext. Tapping into our fear of the boffins in white coats, the drama is set in a commercial laboratory, testing out a biological pesticide based on a genetically engineered virus. Its mandate is to see that the pesticide is confined to killing insects and nothing else. Three cases of complete muscular paralysis in humans later, Samantha Bond and Neil Dudgeon realise the bug has busted out. Stripped of its brain-knotting babble (painfully explained in dialogue for the scientifically challenged such as myself), this is a fairly humdrum piece spiced up with a hint of romance, a lot of revenge, and a manure-load of corporate corruption. **Frances Lass**

RADIO CHOICE

Monday Play: Nietzsche's Horse
Radio 4, 7.45pm

The last testament that opens and closes Lavinia Murray's extraordinary play about the German philosopher's slide down the slippery slope to insanity, is spoken not by Sylvester McCoy's Nietzsche but by Trevor Peacock's workhorse Grane. It's *that* sort of play. The horse's bridle paths "keep crossing Nietzsche's like the ribbons of a maypole" Murray explains in prose that is intoxicating in its richness — so rich that I sometimes felt a bit tiddly and couldn't always find *my way through her maze of a plot. I wanted more* time, for instance, to weigh up lines such as Wagner's description of his music as "It's God, singing great big bubbles tracing each others' trajectory like billiards".

BBC Lunchtime Concert
Radio 3, 1.00pm

The version of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* we know best, probably because we hear it more, is the orchestral suite he subsequently arranged from it. Today's live concert from St John's, Smith Square in London, is a rare opportunity to hear Stravinsky's original variation on the Faust theme for small instrumental ensemble and three voices. Malcolm Sinclair narrates, Peter Kelly plays the Devil, Giles Thomas is the soldier, and the Nash Ensemble play the music. The work occasionally *goes all jazzy on us. Remarkably, when* Stravinsky wrote it, he had never actually heard any jazz being performed. He had simply seen it written down. "I could *imagine* jazz sound", he said in later years. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

7.00 Kevin Greening 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 1.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat. Interview with John Major 7.00 London Music Week. Steve Lamacq and John Peel broadcast live with Kenickie and Mogwai 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes over Britain 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine with Diana Madill 12.00 Midday with Meir, includes at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Great Clubs of Europe 8.00 The Football Forum 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with Tim Grundy and Linda McDermott 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The Streets of London 7.30 Omnibus 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 The Vintage Chart Show 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 International Question Time 10.05 Business 10.15 What's That You're Eating 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Omnibus 12.30pm Jazz Expo 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newshour 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Touched with Fire 3.45 The Good Relationship Guide 4.05 Sport 4.15 On Your Behalf 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Seven Days 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Counterpoint 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack 9.00 Newshour 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Reports from the Silk Road 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 A Cry in the Dark 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 Live from the Archive 3.30 On Screen 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Hall of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Election 97 1.00pm Concerto: C P.E. Bach (Cello Concerto in A major) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata. Handel (Violin Sonata in D, Op 1 No 13) 8.00 Evening Concert. Schumann (Requiem Op 148); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor). Dvorak (Symphonic Variations Op 78) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Andrew MacGregor. Includes Tavemer (Western Wynde Mass); Grieg (Violin Sonata No 1 in F Op 8); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 14); Bantock (Celtic Symphony); Puccini (Tua Madre); Goldschmidt (Cello Concerto)
9.00 **Morning Collection**, with Penny Gore Includes Glière (Concert Waltz, Op 90); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A, Op 12 No 2); Grieg (Incidental Music)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**, with Edward Blakeman. Includes Schubert (Das Fischermadchen); Chausson (Poeme); Bach (Cantata No 108); Hahn (Ninette; Soleil d'Automne); Britten (Peter Grimes, excerpts)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Haydn**
1.00pm **News; BBC Lunchtime Concert.** See Choice
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. With Stephen Hough, piano. Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat); Shostakovich (Symphony No 5)
3.45 **Everything but the Crazyhouse.** Russell Davies continues his exploration of the career of the legendary jazz saxophonist and clarinettist Sidney Bechet (4/6)
4.15 **Music Restored.** Introduced by Anthony Rooley. With rachel Podger, violin, Timothy Roberts, fortepiano. Includes Mozart (Violin Sonata in E flat, K302; Violin Sonata in F, K377)
5.00 **Music Machine.** Tommy Pearson talks to Philip Norman, author of *Buddy, the Biography*, about the impact that Buddy Holly had on the 1950s
5.15 **In Tune**, with Chris de Souza. Includes Bach, orch Elgar (Fantasia and Fugue in C minor); Hindemith (Overture to the Flying Dutchman); Liszt (St Francis of Paola Walking on the Water, Legends); Beethoven (Incidental Music)
7.30 **Grainger Festival (Sounding the Century).** Mairi Nicholson introduces the second of two concerts, given yesterday at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. The Hallé Orchestra, under Ole Schmidt. With Martin Jones, piano. Sibelius (En Saga). Grainger (Suite on Danish Folk Tunes: Paraphrase on Tchaikovsky's Flower Waltz); Nielsen (Symphony No 4, Inextinguishable)
9.05 **Icarus Rising (Sounding the Century).** *The first* of five programmes focusing on the impact on Western imagination of the creation of the *aeroplane (1/5)*
9.30 **Pure Fantasy.** Mistry Quartet, includes Bridge (Phantasie Quartet in F minor)
9.50 **A Cold Coming.** Another of the programmes marking the 60th birthday of the poet Tony Harrison. Tonight he reads his poem inspired by the newspaper photograph of a charred Iraqi soldier in the Gulf War The poem gives voice to all the victims of war in the 20th Century
10.00 **Voices.** Iain Burnside looks at some songs of youth and adolescence
10.45 **Mixing It.** Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present another mix of musical styles
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Rachmaninov** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** The second of two programmes in which Digby Fairweather remembers some unsung heroes of the British jazz scene
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod Includes 1.00 Hermann Prey, baritone, and the pianists Gunther Weissenborn and Gerald Moore. Schubert (Winterreise, and other lieder) 2.35 Enka Sebok, flute, Zsuzsa Pertis, harpsichord, the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra, under Janos Rolla, violin. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D, BWV1050) 3.00 Schools 5.00 Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Sports News and Thought for the Day 8.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour Party 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Election Call.** Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats
10.00 **News; With Great Pleasure (FM).** Rabbi Lionel Blue introduces a selection of his favourite literature, including extracts from *The Diary of a Provincial Lady* by E.M. Delafield, the poetry of Robert Browning and instructions on what to do with unwanted leftovers (3/6)
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)** 10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour**, with Jenni Murray
11.30 **Money Box Live.** Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on personal finance
12.00 **News; You and Yours.** Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm **Brain of Britain.** The continuation of round one of the general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Cutting Edge**, by John Harvey. Tom Georgeson stars as jazz-loving DI Charlie Resnick investigating the attack on a young doctor With Sean Baker and Kate Eaton (1/3) (r)
3.00 ***The Afternoon Shift***, *with Laurie Taylor and the* guests of the day
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Lynne Walker considers how real lives transfer to the stage, as new plays about Marlene Dietrich and Maria Callas open in the West End of London
4.45 **Short Story: The Clerk's Tale**, by V. S. Pritchett. A clerk recalls a journey made during wartime that marked his move from adolescence into adulthood. Read by Reece Dinsdale (r)
5.00 **PM**, with Charles Lee-Pooter and Chris Lowe 5.45 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **The News Quiz.** The current affairs comedy quiz chaired by Simon Hoggart With panellists Frances Wheen, Jeremy Hardy, Clive Anderson and *Times* columnist Alan Coren (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **The Food Programme**, with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 **The Monday Play: Nietzsche's Horse**, by Lavinia Murray See Choice
9.15 **Bottoms, Beaks, Bellies and Feet.** Caroline Sarll concludes her exploration of our bodily extremities by looking at the soles of our feet (4/4) (r)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: One of Ours.** The Pullitzer Prize-winning novel by Willa Cather, abridged by Katie Campbell and read by Ian Porter (6/12)
11.00 **The Heritage Quiz.** Sue MacGregor puts questions to Christopher Cook. Phillipa Gregory, Jane Glover and Graham Fawcett (r)
11.30 **Colvil and Soames.** Christopher Lee's story of two intelligence officers investigating the suspicious death of an elderly priest With Amanda Redman, Dudley Sutton and Christopher Benjamin (5/6) (r)
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am **Late Book: High Fidelity.** The highly-acclaimed best-seller by Nick Hornby Abridged by Chris Wallis and Read by Alan Davies (6/10) (r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Pushing out the boat for Insead

A SWANKY dinner will take place at the Bank of England tonight for the inauguration of the Henry Grunfeld Chair in Investment Banking, endowed by SG Warburg. This will mark the start of a fundraising campaign in the UK for Insead, the international business school founded in Fontainebleau in 1959. Unlike American business schools, their younger European sisters do not generally have endowments. The chairholder will be involved in research into investment banking from a non-US perspective. On stage will be the German-born Henry Grunfeld, 92, who joined Siegmund Warburg in the New Trading Company venture in London in 1935, which later changed its name to SG Warburg. He still turns up for work at Warburgs every day.

Flying sweetly

HERE'S AN idea for British Airways. Alitalia, Italy's national airline, is painting one of its 747 jets to look like a tube of Baci chocolates, a Nestlé confection that translates as "kisses". Decorated midnight blue, with a silver stripe on the side and a silver star along the fuselage, the Baci logo adorns one wing. Nestlé is paying between $1.2 million and $1.5 million for a year, beginning on the Rome to New York run.

WORD has it that Hal Scardino has been boasting about his latest Hollywood film contract. The son of Pearson's chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, he has already appeared in The Indian in the Cupboard. Searching for Bobby Fischer. *and* Marvin's Room. ***His mother remains tight-lipped about her son's latest lucrative project.***

Personal choice

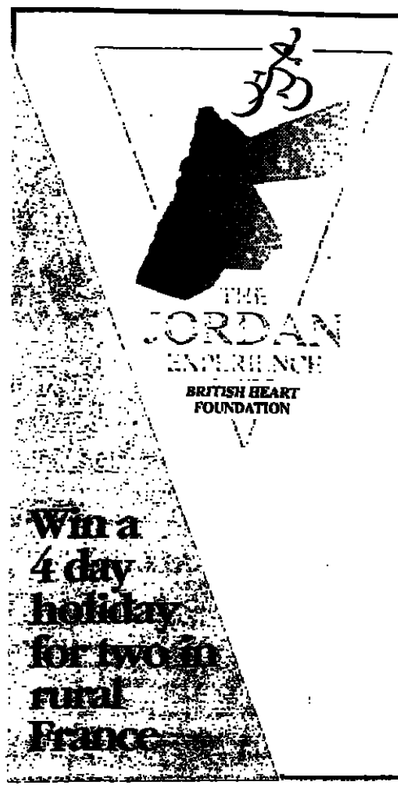
PAUL HINDER is to join the Personal Number Company as its new finance director. Formerly at Cable and Wireless, Hinder was financial controller and before that financial director of Mercury Communications Mobile Services. Readers will remember that this is the very business that Gerry Thomas, his new chief executive at the Personal Number Company, sold to Cable and Wireless for £16 million in 1988. This time round they will be together — Hinder's chance to see the value added to the *entrepreneur's business and* share in its growth. So far, he has negotiated 200,000 options on shares at around 45p.

McNaught reign

LEWIS MCNAUGHT is to succeed Clive Boothman, *managing director of* Schroder Unit Trusts, as chairman of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds. A one-time Egyptologist who moved to New York to work for an art investment business, McNaught, a keen golfer, will combine his new role with his full-time job as managing director of Gartmore Fund Managers.

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Loyd Grossman: can't charm, won't charm

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

I can't decide whether Loyd Grossman is more likely to *start a revolution or stop one.* On the one hand, it didn't take much imagination to see yesterday's opening round of **Masterchef** (BBC1) becoming a training video for Class War. "Death to Loyd," they would chant as militant indignation reached the stiff peaks stage and the selected sticky end warmed over a bain-marie: death by chocolate, minimum of 70 *per cent cocoa solids.*

But the culinary carnage would not stop there. Up would go the cry: " Lightly batter all Anouskas." — and yes, comrades, groundnut *oil would be fine* — followed by unkind calls from extremists for Barry from Bucks to be spatchcocked.

On the other hand, however, if anybody can bring the nation's Delia-driven passion for gastronomy to a juddering stop, it is *Grossman. The thought that one* day you might end up having your *arroz blanco* sniped over by Loyd and the gang is surely enough to persuade most people never to reach for a balloon-whisk again. *Cookery is supposed to be fun and* fun is what's conspicuously absent from *Masterchef.* That is Grossman's fault.

Forget, if you can, those well-chronicled vowels. After all, if we can have a *Prime Minister who* can't pronounce "want", we can have a cookery show presenter who can't pronounce . . . well, anything. Even more annoying than the way he says *things* is what he says — particularly his insistence on having the last, smug, know-all word on everything.

Take Anne-Marie, in the yellow kitchen, who courted the popular vote by crying over her onions, cursing her kitchen equipment and working at a Virgin record store. Her main course was chicken breasts in a molé sauce, with the aforementioned *arroz blanco* and salsa stack. While most of us were still saying "you what?", Grossman greasily observed that it was "very rare for us to have a Mexican main course here". Informative, I admit, but utterly charmless in it its delivery. Later, in an excruciating exchange with Anouska Hempel, he described chile con carne as "faux-Mexican", a remark that should have been rewarded with a un-faux smack on the nose.

As guest judges, both Hempel and Rick Stein were allowed generous plugs for their respective establishments. In return, Stein was subdued ("Hmm, interesting," was about as judgmental as he got) and Hempel was . . . very like Jilly Goolden, only not quite as annoying. But eventually, after much talk of *spa-cuisine, riff-cuisine* and weak jokes about gurnard (guess who smugly knew what colour it was?) we had a winner — Fred *Fisher, who in between being a* constable in the Metropolitan Police and a brilliant cook, somehow found time to be a talented water-colourist. I found that rather annoying, too.

Later on, my mood changed to frustration — as it does every time I drop in on **The Sky at Night** (BBC1) and rediscover that vague interest and a couple of glimpses of Hale-Bopp is still not enough. Patrick Moore is one of the great popularisers of science, but you would never guess from this unashamedly technical programme, which celebrated its 40th anniversary last night.

The conjunction of Hale-Bopp and such an auspicious anniversary should have made last night's programme different: and it was. Instead of getting completely lost after less than five minutes, I made it to minute 11, which sets some sort of personal record. By then, Moore's history of the telescope had done the easy bits — Galileo and Newton, refraction, reflection and so on — and we suddenly reached somebody's variables. Siegfried's was it? Anyway, according to Moore, "as soon as the luminosity is known, the distance can be found". My brain retired hurt and I sat back to admire the view from Greenwich, Arizona, South Africa, Australia, California, Hawaii . . . he'd certainly been clocking up the Air Miles.

As names such as Herschel, Hale and Hubble flashed by, the mirrors got bigger (apparently it's not size that matters, it's the *instruments on the end) and the* search for better seeing conditions grew ever more exotic. But amid all this, like the Hubble Constant that will one day provide the answer to the universe (but possibly not life and everything) Moore remained the same. Same suit, same tie, same high-speed delivery. Not even the word "altazimuthal" — which even astronomers normally have a couple of goes at — could trip him up. It took me five minutes to find it in the dictionary.

His passion clearly remains undimmed, but for this child of the short-lived Space Age there was still something a little depressing as he concluded with some thoughts about how the 80th anniversary might be marked. "Will my successor be able to talk to you from a space station or the surface of the moon?" I think he first started asking that about 30 years ago.

Finally, the attractions of **The Grand** (ITV, Friday) are at last spreading beyond watching Susan Hampshire playing the gently-faded tart with a heart. Below stairs, Rebecca Callard and Jane Danson are having great fun with the fact that when the mop-caps *come off, both caring Kate and* upwardly mobile Monica are rather attractive — it always helps. Friday's story of cowardice and con-men also had terrific performances from Tim Healy and Michael Sheen. The one problem is that, having rightly invested so much in the acting, it's a shame the producers didn't lavish just a little more on the set. Grand, it ain't.

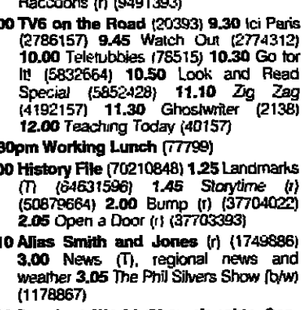
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (88577)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70200480)
9.05 Election Call The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, answers viewers' questions (9909751)
10.00 Style Challenge (47645)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (28935)
11.00 News (T) and weather (4196515)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9639206)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Dougie Donnelly introduces early coverage from day ten at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (3891190)
12.35pm Good Living (9246683)
1.00 News (T) and weather
1.30 Regional News (50883867)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (47088913)
2.10 Snooker: World Championship Live coverage as round two continues in Sheffield with the games now played over *the best of 25 frames (4041515)*
3.30 Playdays (6551393) **3.50** The New Yogi Bear Show (6271751) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (6611770) **4.10** Casper (8641683) **4.35** 50/50 (7973683)
5.00 Newsround *(T) (5624732)*
5.10 Blue Peter (T) (9134913)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (521799)
6.00 News (T) and weather (683)
6.30 Regional News (935) **WALES: 6.55** Election Broadcast: Plaid Cymru (477225)
7.00 Auntie's TV Favourites *Birds of a Feather* star Lesley Joseph looks back on her career (T) (6596)
7.30 CHOICE Here and Now Anastasia Cooke meets people born with defective reproductive systems as a *result of their mothers taking a drug* called DES (T) (119)
8.00 EastEnders Grant and Tony *finally find* out which of them is the father of Tiffany's baby (T) (2916)
8.30 Panorama In the final election special, David Dimbleby talks to the Prime Minister, John Major (T) (4751)
9.00 News (T) and weather (777175)
9.50 Election Broadcast: Labour Party (T) (319003) **WALES: 9.50** Election Broadcast: Welsh Labour Party *(319003)*
10.00 CHOICE Breakout Scientific thriller with Neil Dudgeon and Samantha Bond. Postponed from last week (T) (14480)
11.30 Film 97 with Barry Norman Location report on the set of *The Serpent's Kiss*, a highly charged romance starring Ewan MacGregor, Pete Postlethwaite and Richard E Grant. Plus, Barry Norman reviews the Jim Carrey vehicle *Liar Liar* and *Ghosts of the Past*, with Whoopi Goldberg and Alec Baldwin (T) (76157)
12.00 Mrs Merton Live in Las Vegas (T) (56788)
12.30am Hawk the Slayer (1980) with John Terry and Jack Palance. A brave hero rounds up a group of mismatched do-gooders and enters into battle with his *evil brother for an all-powerful sword* which belonged to their father, each believing it is his birthright. *Directed by* Terry Marcel (97368)
2.00 Weather (3605726)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: English Only in America? (2893393) ***6.25*** *A University* Without Walls (2812428) **6.50** Attachment *(7079765)*
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8697206)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles *(r)* (4771461) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) *(5273935)* ***8.20*** *Bump (r) (3792480)* **8.25** Open a Door (r) (7771157) **8.35** The Raccoons (r) (9491393)
9.00 TV6 on the Road (20393) **9.30** Ici Paris (2786157) **9.45** Watch Out (2774312) **10.00** Teletubbies (78515) **10.30** Go for It! (5832664) **10.50** Look and Read Special (5852428) **11.10** *Zig Zag* (4192157) **11.30** Ghostwriter (2138) ***12.00*** *Teaching Today (40157)*
12.30pm Working Lunch (77799)
1.00 History File (70210848) **1.25** Landmarks *(T) (64631596) 1.45 Storytime (r)* (50879664) **2.00** Bump (r) (37704022) ***2.05*** *Open a Door (r) (37703393)*
2.10 Alias Smith and Jones (r) (1749886) **3.00** News (T), regional news and weather **3.05** *The Phil Silvers Show* (b/w) (1178867)
3.30 Snooker: World Championship Continued from BBC1 (85940848)
5.55 Close Up (235916) **WALES:** Election *Broadcast. Plaid Cymru*
6.00 The Simpsons Bart is faced with an agonising ethical dilemma (T) (511848)
6.25 Space Precinct *(r)* (T) (525312)
7.10 Snooker: World Championship The closing frames in the second round (388138)
7.58 Video Nation Election Shorts (318393)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport World Rally Championship from Catalunya (T) (3886)
8.30 The Antiques Show Europe's largest antiques fair and 1950s collectables. Plus: murderer Dr Crippin's pocket watch *is auctioned for charity (T) (2393)*

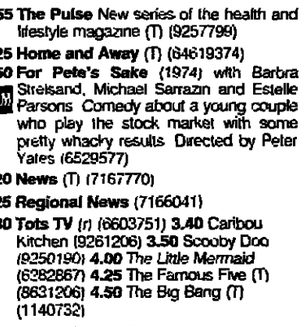


Amanda Plummer stars (9.00pm)

9.00 The Outer Limits A serial murder investigation from the 1950s, in which 17 *sex offenders were fatally shot, is re-*opened (T) (342732)
9.45 This Life Warren plans a round-the-world voyage (T) (734461)
10.30 Election Broadcast: Labour (T) (515848)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (327480)
11.30 Close Up (612645)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship *Pre-*viewing the quarter-finals, which begin tomorrow (536461)
12.25am Weather (3703639)
12.30 Learning Zone: O.U.: Changes in *Rural Society — Piedmont and Sicily* **1.30** The Bathers by Cezanne and Renoir **2.00** *Believe It or Not* **4.00** Italia 2000 **4.30** Royal Institution Discourse **5.00-6.00** *RCN Nursing Update*

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6194428)
9.25 **Supermarket Sweep** *(r) (T) (3026751)*
9.55 Regional News (2155138)
10.00 The Time, the Place (65041)
10.30 This Morning (T) (61515799)
12.20pm Regional News (4869867)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9232480)
12.55 The Pulse New series of the health and lifestyle magazine (T) (9257799)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (84619374)
1.50 For Pete's Sake *(1974)* with Barbra FILM Streisand, Michael Sarrazin and Estelle Parsons. Comedy about a young couple who play the stock market with some pretty whacky results. Directed by Peter Yates (6529577)
3.20 News (T) (7167770)
3.25 Regional News (7166041)
3.30 Tots TV *(r)* (6603751) **3.40** Caribou Kitchen (9261206) **3.50** Scooby Doo *(9250190)* ***4.00*** *The Little Mermaid* (6282867) **4.25** The Famous Five (T) (8631206) **4.50** The Big Bang (T) (1140732)
5.10 Sorted (T) (1099751)
5.40 **News** *(T)* and weather *(764577)*
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (508374)
6.25 HTV Weather (417683)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (494732)
6.55 Election Broadcast: Labour Party (T) (462393)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Budapest: a voyage of discovery round Cape Horn; and Israel (T) (1664)
7.30 Coronation Street *Ashley gets a shock* when he goes to visit Don (T) (515)
8.00 The ITV 500: The People's Election The party leaders field questions from a selected studio audience in the last of the *live debates (5577)*



Calder and Beattie (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Bramwell Alice Costigan (Maureen Beattie) invites Robert (David Calder) to stay at her country house (T) (8041)
10.00 News (T) and weather (38312)
10.30 Regional News (267799)
10.40 The West Story: Flowers by the Roadside The hidden impact felt by the local community of a well-publicised car crash on the Mendips (r) (113374)
11.15 The West This Week Election Specials Last of the special pro*grammes before the General Election* (696206)
12.15am Box Office America (3881417) **12.40** Football Extra (4783287) **1.25** Mainly Men (r) (7195681) **1.55** F1. San Marino Grand Prix (5567542) **3.00** Club Nation (r) (T) (4059417) **3.55** God's Gift (2156894) **4.50** Sound Bites (21895436) **5.00** Coronation Street (82788) **5.30** News (75813)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9257799)
1.50 Blue Heelers (2884409)
2.50-3.20 High Road (5415770)
3.30-3.40 Tots TV (6603751)
5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** *(1099751)*
6.25-6.55 Central News (516393)
10.40 Film: Sugarland Express (36725428)
12.45am Football Extra (4782558)
1.30 Stand and Deliver (49487)
2.30 Real Highway Patrol (3267504)
2.55 Film: Shadow of the Eagle (124726)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (9257799)
1.25 High Road (70215393)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (2892428)
2.50-3.20 Westcountry Update (5415770)
5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** *(1099751)*
6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live (662859)
10.30 Westcountry News (241751)
10.45 A Tale of Three Farms (264461)
11.15 Love at First Sight (261374)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (543751)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9257799)
1.50 Down by the River (34933044)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (1723848)
5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** *(1099751)*
6.00 Meridian Tonight (508374)
6.25-6.55 Country Ways (516393)
10.40 The Pier (755003)
11.10 Swift Justice (665312)
12.05 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (7207271)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9257799)
1.50 **Blue Heelers** *(2884409)*
2.50-3.20 Crawshaw Paints Constable Country (5415770)
5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** *(1099751)*
6.25-6.55 Anglia News (516393)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (241751)
10.45 **Cross Question Election 1997** (699393)
11.45 Highlander (543751)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (27765) **7.00** ***The Big Breakfast*** *(76645)* **9.00 Bewitched** (15461) **9.30 Film: Terminal Station** (1531138) ***10.40 Film: Mule Train*** *(9262312)* ***11.55 Log Driver's Waltz*** (5418409) **12.00 Right to Reply** (35225) **12.30pm Montel Williams** (62867) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (79592698) **1.15 Smot y Ci** (88047503) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (22290916) **1.50 Film: Phffftt** (42359480) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (409) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (916) **4.30 Garden Party** (428) **5.00 5 Pump** (5640770) **5.10 Ffeil** (5646954) ***5.20 Gogs*** *(8450461)* ***5.30 Countdown*** *(480)* **6.00 Newyddion** (122003) **6.05 Heno** (519480) ***6.35 Bob Yn Ddau*** *(491645)* ***7.00 Pobol y Cwm*** (629751) **7.25 Y Jocars** (918428) **8.00 Clwb Garddio** *(8954)* ***8.30 Darllediad Etholiadol*** (250190) **8.35 Newyddion** (461119) **9.05 Etholiad 97** *(902138)* **10.05 Etholiad 97** (136867) **10.20 Sgorio** (797190) **11.10 Snwcer: Pencampwriaeth y Byd** (613954) **11.40 Party Election Broadcast** (636225) **11.45 NBA Raw** (233022) **12.20am-1.50 Midnight Special** (9927962)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (27765) **7.00** The Big Breakfast *(76645)* **9.00** Bewitched *(r)* (T) (15461)
9.30 **Terminal Station** (1954). A romantic FILM drama with Jennifer Jones and Montgomery Clift. Directed by Vittorio DeSica (1531138)
10.40 Mule Train (1954, b/w) Vintage western FILM adventure with Gene Autrey. Directed by John English (9262312)
11.55 **Log Driver's Waltz** *A cartoon tribute to* the Canadian log-driver (5418409) **12.00** Right to Reply (r) (T) (35225) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (58393) **1.30** Ali Baba. Italian animation (50876577)
1.45 The Black Tent (1956) with Anthony FILM Steel and Donald Sinden. A Second World War drama set in North Africa. Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst (T) *(53080596)*
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (409) **4.00** Fifteen-To-One (T) (916) **4.30** Countdown (T) (428) **5.00** Montel Williams (T) (2770) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (480) **6.00** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (T) (393)
6.30 Hollyoaks The 100th episode of the teen *soap (T) (645)*
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (7799)
8.00 Mrs Cohen's Money: Tax Advice on keeping on top of tax affairs (T) (4/6) (8954)
8.30 The Entertainers *Series following the* mixed fortunes of entertainers on the North East club circuit (T) (3/5) (7461)



Wedding guest Hugh Grant (9.0pm)

9.00 **Four Weddings and a Funeral** (1994) FILM Romantic comedy drama with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell. *Charles, a* thirtysomething who has a bit of a reputation, is always being invited to weddings, but wonders if he will ever be ready to settle down — that is until he meets the beautiful, elusive Carrie. Also among the star-studded cast are Kristin Scott-Thomas, Simon Callow, James Fleet and John Hannah. Directed by Mike Newell (95084698)
11.15 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour Party (673596)
11.20 Cheers Rebecca begins to date her new boss (r) (605935)
11.50 NBA Raw American basketball action (650645)
12.20am Midnight Special Discussion series chaired by Sheena McDonald (9927962)
1.50 Time Flies When You're Alive Paul Linke as a husband remembering his wife's death. Based on his own experiences (9929441)
3.20 Forget-Me-Not (1936, b/w) with FILM Beniamino Gigli and Joan Gardner. A shipboard romantic drama directed by Zoltan Korda (8784981)
4.40 **The Price of Bread** *The life of a* Palestinian family living on the Gaza Strip (r) (9585504)
5.35-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (5669813)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on *transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite.* Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No *63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound:* **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (7326848)
7.30 Havakazoo (2446206)
8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2064935)
8.30 WideWorld: Heaven's Delight How the Madonna was regularly depicted in paintings (2063206)
9.00 Espresso (5063157)
10.00 Exclusive (r) (6371206)
10.30 Attractions (r) (2076770)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (9203954) **11.50** Double Espresso (45877799)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (2067022)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9958138)
1.00 5 News Update (92971374)
1.05 **Sunset Beach** *(6073848)*
2.00 5's Company (3572913)
3.30 Mother of the Bride (1992) with Rue FILM McLanahan and Kirsty McNichol. A comedy about a woman whose plans for *her daughter's wedding go awry.* Directed by Charles Correll (4951577)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14831683)
5.25 PEB: Scottish Nationalists (14817003)
5.30 100 Per Cent (14816374)
6.00 Whittle (T) (1910954)
6.30 **Family Affairs** Roy helps Duncan *move* house (T) (1901206)
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz gossip (1811190)
7.30 Wild States The first in a series on the wildlife of North America (T) (7108916)
7.55 Election Broadcast: Labour (5479751)



Sandy Mitchell (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE *Hot Property* *Sandy Mitchell* gives advice to a woman who *wants to move from a London studio flat* (T) (1837138)
8.30 5 News (1816645)
9.00 Runaway (1984) with Tom Selleck, FILM Cynthia Rhodes and Kirstie Alley. A sci-fi crime thriller written and directed by Michael Crichton (T) (32539409)
10.55 Exclusive Extra (6458732)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy with guest Jo Brand (7644549)
11.40 **We Know Where You Live** *(2118312)*
12.10am PEB: Plaid Cymru (2347707)
12.15 Live and Dangerous sports magazine, including coverage of the Winter X Games (8361252)
4.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H** *(6060813)*
5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5948894)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● ***For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (6806683) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (58848) **10.00** Another World (33954) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (13190) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (11698) **1.00pm** Geraldo (12886) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (19886) **3.00** Jenny Jones (12312) **4.00** Oprah with the Stars (89549) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3041) **6.00** Real TV (6003) **6.30** Married — with Children (3193) **7.00** The Simpsons (4770) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6867) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (51799) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (31935) **10.00** Nash Bridges (34022) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (34683) **12.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (10900) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (71523) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8807542)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4158409) **7.30** Superboy (3801206) **8.00** Typhon's People (1284138) **10.00** The Outer Limits (1263545) **11.00** Late Show (6788567) **12.00** Hit Mix (9661523)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour. 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Medicine River (1993) *(72664)*
8.00 The Secret Invasion (1964) (59358)
10.00 Mosquito Squadron (1968) *(95119)*
12.00 The Return of Tommy Tricker (1994) (243577) **1.45pm The Magic Kid II (1993)** (295751) **3.15 Medicine River (1993)** (20024157) **5.00 Scout's Honour (1980)** (63022) **7.00 A Pyromaniac's Love Story (1995)** (30857) **9.00 Iron Will (1993)** (34811916) **10.50 Sleaze (1994)** (60514138) **12.25am Wolf (1994)** (669436) **2.25 Cold Fever (1994)** (3286891) **3.50 Iron Will (1993)** (82934981)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Stand-In (1937) (67577) **7.30 My Neighbour Totoro (1993)** (80428) **9.00 Breakout (1984)** (5474848) **10.10 The Feminine Touch (1941)** (49444041) **12.00 Little Miss Millions (1992)** (81003) **2.00pm Les Rendez-Vous de Paris (1995)** (29916) **4.00 My Neighbour Totoro (1993)** (47329684) **5.50 My Girl II (1994)** (61017022) **7.30 *El Feature*; Donnie Brasco** (9577) **8.00 Legacy of Sin: The William Colt Jnr Story (1995)** (48225) **10.00 Outbreak (1995)** (56259003) **12.05am The Road to Wellville (1994)** (866523) **2.05 Confessions of a Sorority Girl (1994)** (3260417) **3.25 Matewan (1987)** (29043271)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00am Canyon Passage (1946) (80701901) ***8.00 Three Amigos! PG (1986)*** (8082935) **10.00 Death Hunt (1981)** (76526886) ***11.40 No Way Out (1987)*** (94918448) **1.35pm The Collector (1965)** (34751146) **3.35-5.10 A Night at the Opera (1935)** (91635523)

TNT

9.00pm Orpheus Descending (1990) (69242206) **11.00 White Heat (1949)** (75052916) **1.00am The Safecracker (1958)** (13441146) **2.40-5.00 Orpheus Descending (1990)** (90496309)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (70409) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (22428) **8.30** Racing News (90799) **9.00** World of Speed and Beauty (74751) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (10041) **10.00** Football League Review (68425) **11.00** Live Benson and Hedges Cup Cricket (5926409) **7.00pm** Sports Centre (6916) **7.30** Tartan Extra (4041) **8.00** Live Ringside Boxing (93799) **10.00** Sports Centre (62916) **10.30** Bolton Wanderers Special (71684) **11.00** Tartan Extra (47022) **11.30** Soccer Head Tennis (74003) **1.00am** Ringside Boxing (92788) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (68387)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Squash British Open (57196374) **1.00pm** US Golf, Greater Greensboro Open (50034954) **4.00** Football League Review (22083732) **5.00** Wrestling Live Wire (21886935) ***6.00*** *Sports Centre (42943751)* **6.30** Skiff Sailing (42934003) **7.00** Sports Unlimited (89265157) **8.00** Women's Golf (99241577) **9.00** Squash British Open (69254047) **10.00-11.30** Benson and Hedges Cup Cricket (79590867)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Ice Hockey (77312) **8.00** Mountainbike (14003) **9.00** Cycling (76119) **9.30** Football (60436) **11.00** Ice Hockey (57409) **11.30** IndyCar (12751) **1.00pm** Ice Hockey (26080) **2.00** Gymnastics (96866) **4.00** Ice Hockey (31461) **5.00** Live Ice Hockey (1683577) **8.30** Speedworld (55954) **10.00** Football (573721) **11.00-12.30am** Ice Hockey (54751)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (1991136) **7.35** Neighbours (5562515) ***8.00*** *Crossroads* (35607223) **8.25** EastEnders (6801954) **9.00** The Bill (2186454) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (8006175) **10.00** Robin's Nest (48436451) **10.30** The Sullivans (2483206) **11.00** Casualty (89799577) **12.05pm** Crossroads (28576080) **12.30** Neighbours (44061111) **1.00** EastEnders (8971751) **1.35** The Cox Emery Show (73933683) **2.05** A Daddy Sit or Dodd (10297472) **2.15** Fairy Secret Army (2177698) **2.55** 'Allo 'Allo! (79620634) **3.30** The Bill (2613935) ***4.00*** *Sean* (5477461) **5.00** Generation Game (30565354) **6.05** EastEnders (4399374) **6.40** Sykes (1204206) **7.20** Russ Abbot (44749351) **7.50** Pop Profile (6352867) **8.00** Wowbagginton (3059770) **8.30 FILM: Cliffhanger** (42801191) **10.30** The Bill (8220003) **11.05 FILM: Medicine Man** (97969951) **12.55am** Spelling Image (75784551) **1.25** Miami Vice (3633223) **2.20** Shopping at Night (28743149)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (51138671) **6.30** Children's Ward (20523734) **7.00** Coronation Street (4592515) **7.30** Families (45710227) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (42129355) **9.00** The Professionals (51225515) **10.00** The Krypton Factor (2076954) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (5239003) **11.00** Wish Those Were Mine (4580770) **12.00** Coronation Street (5263683) **12.30pm** Families (49031759) **1.00** Cream Cracker (45918866) **1.30** The *Good Life Guide (6056190)* **2.00** *Family at War (2076683)* **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (9762954) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise (3741461) **5.00** The Professionals (5317409) **6.00** Families (85387629) **6.30** Coronation Street (83385211) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise (2694645) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (2603393) **9.00** Coronation Street (3747645) **9.30** The Comedians (82166853) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (26532166)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Morse Tracks (70668481) **6.25** Quack Attack (70786853) **6.50** Bonkers (1780312) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (71269867) **7.40** Aladdin (41709825) **8.05** Quack Pack (88430098) **8.30** Goof Troop (416751) **9.00** The Care Bears (31491980) **9.25** Poon Corner (51682225) **9.50** Muppet Babies (80249335) **10.15** Groundling Marsh (6984732) **10.40** Sing Me a Story (16268886) **11.05** Poddington Peas (1589041) **11.10** Big Garage (94268312) **11.25** Play Along (2604312) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (57165515) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (90706964) **12.30** Boy Meets World (54528886) **12.55** Timon and Pumbaa (77219480) **1.05** Mouse Tracks (16015515) **1.30** Aladdin (21734350) **2.10** Goof Troop (46306003) **2.35** Bonkers (51558935) ***3.00*** *Quack Attack* (1872664) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (94380662) **3.35** The Little Mermaid (99916434) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (41142935) ***4.10*** *Goof Troop (8973409)* **4.35** Quack Pack (99861191) **5.00** Aladdin (43324481) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (56686545) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (4824461) **6.00** New Doug (4003) **6.30** Boy Meets World (8683) **7.00** Brotherly Love (2596) **7.30 FILM: The Great Elephant Escape** (67954) **9.00** Bone Chillers (43747) **9.30-10.00** Life's Work (34645)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (12131191) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (76925151) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (67791191) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (87819541) **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (81171191) **8.30** Crocadoo (81091991) **9.00** Rumba's Island (45316831) **9.20** The Magic Box (84997651) **9.45** Zoobilee Zoo (95935645) **10.05** Rimba's Island (68539354) **10.25** The Magic Box (74454661) **10.55** Adventures of Dodo (84306751) ***11.00*** Princess Sparkle (87892036) **11.30** Pinocchio (87609351) ***12.00*** *Inspector Gadget* (81102061) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (35266935) ***12.50*** **Power Rangers Zeo** (35286799) **1.10** Big Bad Beetleborgs (20257960) **1.30** *Eek! Stravaganza* (70754611) **2.00** Life with Louie (41473931) **2.30** *Crocadoo (3813041)* **3.00** Gadget Boy (41664228) **3.30** *Eek! Stravaganza* (38258866) **4.00** Life with Louie (38043931) **4.30** Power Rangers Zeo (38005771) **5.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (41386451) **5.30** Spiderman (38241571) **6.00** Goosebumps (38147701) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (38052022)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (63531) ***7.00*** Dennis the Menace (64022) **8.00** Batman (20854) **8.30** Art Attack (29225) **9.00** Flash Gordon (10577) **9.30** Bobby's World (56867) ***10.00*** *Romuald the Reindeer* (68799) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (94931) **11.00** Danger Mouse (91867) **11.30** Gravedale High (92596) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (23041) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (50683) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (74848) **1.30** The Black Beauty (59954) **2.00** *The Girl from* Tomorrow (4954) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (6848) **3.00** An Attack (3461) **3.30** Flash Gordon (1393) **4.00** Batman (6288) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (9312)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and *The Flintstones*

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (85816) **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life (30393) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (61751) **7.30** Rugrats (80886) **8.00** *Doug (82770)* **8.30** *Arthur (81041)* **9.00** CBBC (94664) **10.00** Wimzie's House (21645) **10.30** Baker (78577) **11.00** Magic School Bus (53683) **11.30** Mr Men/Little Rollo/Barney/Topsy and Tim/Skytark (54312) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (92157) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (29799) **1.00** CBBC (17954) **2.00** The Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (6770) **2.30** Kissyfur (1190) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (2577) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (3935) **4.00** Jumanji (5770) **4.30** Rugrats (1954) **5.00** *Sister Sister* (7022) **5.30** Moesha (2206) **6.00** Press Gang (9119) ***6.30-7.00*** *Doug (3799)*

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (7456436) **1.00pm** Madison (4596916) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (7551080) **2.00** Hangtime (3031374) **2.30** California Dreams (2638886) **3.00** Byker Grove (3050409) **3.30** Blast (2608003) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2627139) **4.30** Hangtime (2616022) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3055954) ***5.30*** *California Dreams* (2607374) **6.00** Byker Grove (2837515) **6.30** Madison (2628857) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9908312)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (3051138) **8.30** The New Twilight Zone (3030645) **9.00** Monsters (5491041) ***9.30*** Monsters (6006995) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9907693) ***11.00 FILM: Ghost in the Shell*** *(7793974)* **1.00am** Starsky and Hutch (4621788) **2.00** *Tour of Duty (8616097)* **3.00 FILM: Ghost in the Shell** (4191271) **5.00** The New *Twilight Zone (4238813)*

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (7886) **7.30** Roseanne (2683) **8.00** Roseanne (3206) **8.30** Monty Python's *Flying Circus (5041)* **9.00** Cheers (40119) **9.30** Cybill (76585) **10.00** Fraser (93886) **10.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (79206) **11.00** In Bed with Mo Dinner (45664) **11.30** Nightstand (75799) **12.00am** Carnal Knowledge (92875) **1.30** Cybill (12542) **2.00** Entertainment UK *(21629)* **2.30** *In Bed with Mo* Dinner (37436) **3.00** Fraser (66829) **3.30-4.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (28788)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Tenchi Muyo (7016428) **8.30** The *Twilight Zone* (7095935) **9.00** Sightings (4500041) **10.00** Starman (4510428) **11.00** Nova (6227577) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (3018813) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1272629) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3806875) **2.00** Friday the 13th (6377078) **3.00** Dark Shadows (1189165) **3.30-4.00** Dark Shadows (5300165)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4988436) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (4145637) **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot (4634190) **10.30** Doing It Up (4263288) ***11.00*** *The Painted* House (5484751) **11.30** This Old House (5485480) ***12.00*** *Yan Can Cook (4083080)* **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (6206193) **1.00** *Today's Gourmet (4592190)* **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (7656634) **2.00** *Hometime (3044848)* **2.30** Furniture to Go (2609732) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (3056683) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2611577)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm *Rex Hunt (2623312)* **4.30** Roadshow (2629596) **5.00** Terra X (3068428) **5.30** *Mysteries, Magic and Miracles* (2610848) **6.00** Wildfilm (2600461) **6.30** The Global Family (2624041) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (3048684) **7.30**



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Fashion has designs on Bond Street

BUSINESS

ROGER BOOTLE 45

Exchange of views on currencies



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 28 1997

Britain losing foreign investment to pro-EU countries

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

INDUSTRY is suffering a fall in investment, with foreign firms being attracted to countries with a strong European Union commitment and British firms investing less than in the early Eighties.

The Confederation of British Industry will say today that investment performance is "disappointing" compared with recovery from recession in the early 1980s and in comparison with competitor countries. At the same time, a report over the weekend showed that the UK has been overtaken by France as the favourite centre for new investment into the European Union by foreign companies.

The report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research said that while the UK has the largest share of all external investment in the EU, this had declined to 23 per cent in 1995, from 30 per cent a decade before.

New investment in Britain has declined from an annual average of $22 billion in 1986-90 to $17 billion in 1991-95. In the same period new investment in France has increased from an average of $8 billion a year to $19 billion.

The report argues that while the UK's flexible labour markets remain attractive to foreign firms, the country is losing out in the race to win more capital and research and development-intensive new businesses. The NIESR points to the record of British companies investing abroad as evidence that the social chapter and tighter Labour market regulations in other European countries is not seen as an insurmountable obstacle to investment by large multinational companies.

The CBI has found that since the election in early 1992 "investment trends have been disappointing, with the recovery in investment falling well short of that in the early Eighties and with some other countries". The confederation studied fixed capital spending since 1992 and compared it with the trend during the economic recovery 11 years earlier. It found that economy-wide investment in the last quarter of 1996 was only about 5 per cent higher than five years before, whereas total fixed investment had grown by as much as 26 per cent at the same stage of the 1980s recovery.

The CBI says this "comparatively weak recovery" in investment is in part due to the public sector since capital spending by the Conservatives has fallen by a third over the duration of the recovery.

Business investment, by contrast, has been better, with private-sector housing investment up by 13.5 per cent and total business investment up by 10 per cent, although the CBI accepts that this compares with an increase of 27 per cent in overall business investment during the comparable period of the 1980s.

Japanese warning, page 44

£31bn estimate in 'cloud cuckoo land'

Millennium bug fears exaggerated

BY FRASER NELSON

TASKFORCE 2000, the government-sponsored agency that last month predicted that the millennium problem could cost the UK £31 billion, has admitted that the figure was a wild estimate taken from "cloud cuckoo land".

Robin Guenier, executive director of the agency, said the headline-grabbing figure was not a practical assessment of the cost to British industry but a means of drawing attention to the scale of the problem.

An independent report due to be published next month says the cost of the bug — which throws computers into confusion after the year 99 — will be £10 billion.

The Holway Report, an annual publication with a wide following in the City, says most of the cost will be absorbed by normal growth in the computer market. It concludes that the millennium effect — the cost to UK businesses over and above their normal computer spend — is unlikely to exceed £3 billion.

Mr Guenier said he knew his £31 billion figure was unrealistic when he found that 260,000 programmers would be needed to change the lines of old computer code that store dates in the two-digit format.

He said: "Of course, we were in cloud cuckoo land because we just don't have that number of people. That was my real message — that the problem is just too large to complete in time.

"I have always said the cost of the problem is secondary to getting on with it, so I avoided giving a figure. But people kept asking me how much it would cost and I got a bit fed up, so I compiled this report. It was off-the-cuff, a case of sitting down at a computer and making a little spreadsheet."

The Holway Report uses figures from Year 2000 Conference Europe, an industry-backed taskforce, which forecast that BT will spend £350 million sorting out the problem, the four largest banks £480 million and the ten largest insurers £800 million. A further 900 large companies face an average bill of £6 million.

Including the health service (£120 million), social security (£130 million) and the Ministry of Defence (£110 million), the total comes to £9.72 billion.

BT, which has vast databanks that leave it more exposed to the millennium problem than any other UK company, has confirmed that the millennium effect will be £200 million, with the rest underlying growth. It adds that the leap year factor — 00 will defy the normal test of being divisible by four — poses as much of a problem as the millennium bug itself. The Halifax has chosen not to correct every line of old-style computer code, but completely replace the older parts of its computer system.

The problem has arisen because computers have evolved rather than been replaced, leaving many programs still rooted in to the 1970s. None of the analysts deny that the bug poses a serious and expensive problem. *The Holway Report* works on the basis that spend will not be limited by budgets but by resources.

Few agree on whether the problem will act as a drain on financial resources or as a catalyst for a much-needed break with old-style computer systems.

The Holway Report concludes that the real millennium threat is posed by companies that raid their long-term computer budget to meet the deadline. In the rush, it says, the British computer market will surge by 20 per cent to £38.3 billion by the year 2000, but may then fall into a financial vacuum when the work has been done, leading the computer industry into recession.



MARGARET YOUNG is leaving NatWest Markets, where she defended companies such as William Cook and Amec from hostile bids, to join DLJ Phoenix, the corporate finance boutique. Mrs Young, 42, pictured, has been with NatWest since 1985. She will work with Martin Smith and Alison Carnwarth in a team whose reputation led Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the Wall Street firm, to pay £50 million for Phoenix this year.

Co-op calls DTI and Bank over Regan

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE CO-OPERATIVE Wholesale Society has contacted the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry about the aborted £1.2 billion bid by Andrew Regan, on which he was advised by Hambros Bank.

The CWS said that it has been in touch with both bodies to draw their attention to the activities of the 31-year-old entrepreneur and his associates and advisers during the planning of the bid. Plans to launch the bid by writing to all Co-op members were dropped on Thursday after Mr Regan's main financial backer, Nomura, pulled out.

It was not clear yesterday what action, if any, CWS wants the Bank of England or the DTI to take against Mr Regan or any of his advisers.

CWS has also asked the Stock Exchange to investigate trading in Lanica Trust, the Guersey company run by Mr Regan, whose shares were suspended in February after a dramatic rise. Lanica is a major shareholder in Galileo, the company set up to carry out the takeover.

Allan Green and David Chambers, the CWS executives accused of leaking sensitive documents to Mr Regan, were sacked at the weekend. Roger Jones, CWS secretary, wrote to both men on Saturday telling them that they had been summarily dismissed and asking them to return their company cars, both Jaguars.

The CWS is pursuing the bid players in the courts. Private criminal action has been begun against Mr Green and Mr Regan and his partner David Lyons, and civil action is going on against all three, and Hambros and Mr Regan's solicitors, Travers Smith Braithwaite. CWS has said it is looking to claim millions of pounds in damages.

Finally, documents concerning a mysterious payment made by Hobson, a company formerly run by Mr Regan, to another offshore company controlled by Anglo-Isreali businessman, Ronald Zimet, during an earlier deal involving CWS have been passed to the Serious Fraud Office by CWS lawyers last week. The SFO will not say whether it will investigate.

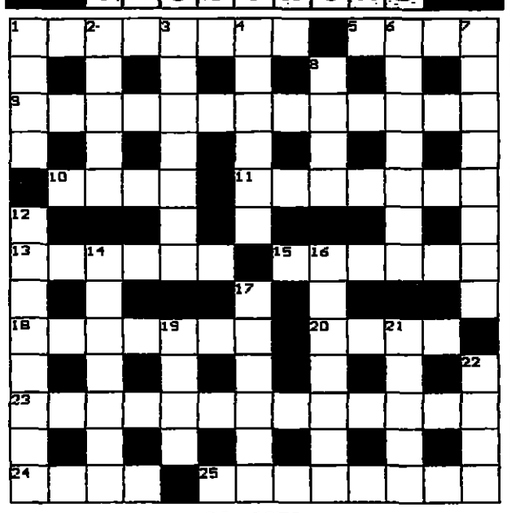
Float plan for First National

FIRST NATIONAL, the giant Irish building society, is close to announcing a conversion to a public company ahead of a £4 billion flotation (Jason Nissé writes).

The float would bring windfalls for 150,000 investors, though many in the UK who have First National postal accounts could lose out.

The 136-year-old building society has been expanding aggressively in the UK, having bought The Mortgage Corporation from Salomon Brothers last year. It has appointed ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, to advise on the conversion.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1079

ACROSS
1 *Glorious* race meeting (8)
5 Twin of Jacob (4)
9 How chance falls out (4,2,3,4)
10 Alban —, Schönberg pupil (4)
11 Hazard (7)
13 Urge on (6)
15 Self-possessed; balanced (6)
18 "With — tread" (*Pirates of Penzance*) (3-4)
20 Support; rear (4)
23 Chem. element arrangement (8,5)
24 EMU currency (4)
25 Well said! (4! 4!)

DOWN
1 Bird; deceive (4)
2 When due, signalled (2,3)
3 Fashioned (7)
3,19 Material for eg gates (7,4)
4 Range of eight notes (6)
6 Vegetables; burgeons (7)
7 Awkward (8)
8 Controlling strap; sounds like *he king* (4)
12 Follower of guru (8)
14 Provisioner (7)
16 Earth-circling satellite (7)
17 18 (6)
19 Golf club; element (4)
21 Anchor rope; naut. distance (5)
22 Call derisively (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1078

ACROSS: 7 Michelangelo 9 Le Havre 10 Plonk 11 Well 12 Werewolf 15 Nineteen 17 To-do 19 Sibyl 21 Redhead 22 Old-fashioned

DOWN: 1 Michelin 2 Shove 3 Sleeve 4 Snapper 5 Veto 6 Book of words 8 Blow one's top 13 Odometer 14 Stellar 16 Earthy 18 Idiot 20 Bode

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US elections cost BAT $827,000

BY JASON NISSÉ

BAT INDUSTRIES, whose chairman, Lord Cairns, has hinted that it could demerge its tobacco and insurance businesses, has revealed it spent $827,000 last year on political donations in the US. The figure is not disclosed to shareholders in its annual report despite a requirement to detail any payments made to UK political parties.

Brown & Williamson, BAT's US tobacco business, which is set to join in the $300 billion settlement of smoking-related litigation in the US, spent $600,000 supporting candidates ahead of the US presidential elections last year.

The majority of these payments were to Republican candidates. The Democratic Clinton administration has been leading the pressure on tobacco companies by increasing regulation, which was added to on Friday when a North Carolina court ruled tobacco was a drug.

Farmers, the California-based insurance group owned by BAT, paid $227,725 to over 400 candidates standing in various elections, including those for state insurance commissioner.

The figures were revealed in a letter to Pirc, the corporate governance lobby group, which has been pressing companies to reveal political donations. Earlier this month Glaxo Wellcome admitted it had paid $500,000 to political parties in the US while trumpeting in its annual report that it paid no political donations in the UK.

The payments by the BAT subsidiaries are so-called "soft" donations, a direct payment in support of a candidate for office.

Daewoo eye on £200m UK plant

DAEWOO, the South Korean motor group, plans to build a £200 million car engine factory in Western Europe and almost certainly will chose a site in the West Midlands.

The engine factory is thought to be part of a move towards full car-assembly operations in the United Kingdom. Last year, Daewoo said it intends to invest as much as $6 billion in overseas car and engine plants.

Hyundai, the largest Korean car company, may also build a factory in Britain. It is completing a feasibility study for a plant that would initially build 100,000 cars a year.

The Koreans want a Western Europe manufacturing base partly because they fear that the European Union could erect barriers to Korean imports. Japan used the same strategy in the 1970s and 1980s in the US.

IMF says single currency vital to economic stability

Warning on EMU delay

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund has cautioned against any delay in the launch of a single European currency, giving warning that inaction could mean turmoil in the financial markets.

Jacques Artus, deputy director of European development, and Massimo Russo, a senior adviser to the Fund, said in Washington yesterday that all countries were capable of meeting the fiscal criteria for inclusion in European Monetary Union by the deadline of January 1999.

Despite market speculation about whether European countries, and in particular Italy, could meet the targets, the IMF remained convinced these could be achieved and were essential to future economic stability.

"We at the IMF believe a delay would lead to substantial dangers," Mr Russo said. Although it was still impossible to assess an exchange rate for the Euro, one would be feasible by late 1998 and must be announced to the markets as soon as possible, he added.

The IMF has credited the EMU project with pushing through some reforms but believes it is also exacting a toll by creating business and consumer uncertainty.

The latest warning came as finance ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations met in Washington to review international economic policy. At the centre of the debate was the soaring dollar which, aided by a strong global economy and higher US interest rates, has risen by more than 50 per cent against the yen and 24 per cent against the mark since April 1995.

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